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MONEY MAGAZINE Time for flat taxes? It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY

Arrow test 'a success'

STEVE RODAN and ON LEVY

ISRAEL fired the Arrow-2 anti-ballistic missile yesterday in a demonstration test that was deemed a complete success, officials said.

As in the first demonstration of the Arrow in July, which lasted six seconds and was termed a success, yesterday's test did not seek to intercept an incoming missile.

Call and Speak Your Mind Every Night Sunday - Thursday, 8:30-9:00 p.m. on SHEILA'S SHOW Radio 101 FM



MK David Levy announces the formation of his new party, Gesher, at a press conference yesterday in Tel Aviv.

David Levy launches his Gesher party

MK David Levy yesterday officially launched his new party, Gesher (Bridge), announcing that after the elections he will be a partner to any government - Labor or Likud - which accepts Gesher's principles.

Levy stressed that Gesher, a social-national party in the political center, will be a bridge between the two polarities of the Left and Right.

Facing him is the opposition leader, shooting from the hip in every direction without a definite line, without an alternative.

Peres: Many people in Israel want to murder ministers

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres stopped just short of accusing the Likud of incitement during a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He said Israel is insisting that no Palestinian Authority activities take place in eastern Jerusalem, and that three offices have been removed: the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority and the Health Council.

Hizbullah 'kamikaze' pilot blows up over security zone

A HIZBULLAH suicide bomber piloting a motorized hang-glider, apparently on his way to carry out an attack, blew up in midair yesterday afternoon near the security zone.

The last hang-glider attack occurred in November 1987, when two or three of them manned by members of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command tried to infiltrate Israel.

Levinger still a prisoner without a prison

FOUR years after he rioted and disturbed the peace in Hebron, nearly a year after going on trial for the incident, and two months after being convicted, Rabbi Moshe Levinger yesterday was a man in search of a jail yesterday.

The day before, Levinger knocked on the gates of the Ayalon Prison in Ramle, saying that the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court told him to show up and begin his seven month sentence.

Levinger showed up at prison unaccompanied by the police, as if he was showing up for reserve duty.

Municipality of Tel-Aviv - Yafa Tel-Aviv Community Theatre Presents in English... The Physicists

Gov't cancels meeting on settlement housing

HERB KEINON

LEADERS of settlements around Jerusalem reacted angrily yesterday to the cancellation of today's scheduled meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement to discuss plans to build them 6,000 new housing units.

Efrat Local Council head Yimon Ahiman said he was told the meeting was not canceled, but rather "postponed," as all such meetings have been for the last 10 months.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer was expected to submit plans to the committee for 3,000 new units in Ma'aleh Adumim, 700 in Givat Ze'ev, 1,800 in the haredi community of Kiryat Sefer, 900 in Betar, and a few hundred in Gush Etzion and Efrat. The meeting was canceled after Ben-Eliezer acceded to Prime Minister Shimon Peres's requests to build for haredim in Beit Shemesh and Eilat, rather than in Kiryat Sefer and Betar.

Meanwhile, in an unusual move, three leading haredi Lithuanian rabbis have appealed directly to Peres to act to "alleviate the serious housing crisis" in the haredi sector by allowing the expansion of Kiryat Sefer, according to a report on Channel 1 last night. The rabbis signed on the letter are Shalom Eliashiv, Shalom Auerbach, and Aharon Leib Steiman, who have been opposed to the Labor Party.

The Third Way met in Efrat

yesterday and slammed the decision. "This decision is further testimony of the government's intention to return to the 1948 borders, and is a sharp turn by the Peres government from the policies of the Rabin government," said Yehuda Harel, one of the heads of the movement.

Both Harel and Ahiman called on Meimad head Minister Yehuda Amital to quit the government over the issue.

Ahiman said Amital joined the government hoping to help the settlements. "But nothing has been forthcoming," Ahiman said, "not even for settlements like Ma'aleh Adumim and those in Gush Etzion.

Amital, who did not react to calls for him to resign, asked Peres for an urgent meeting to talk about the cancellation of the meeting. Amital said he spoke with Peres a week ago about the need to allow for the "natural growth" of the settlements, and that Peres had agreed with him.

Ministers Yossi Beilin, Shulamit Aloni, and Yossi Sarid have expressed adamant opposition to plans to build in Greater Jerusalem. Sarid yesterday praised Peres and Ben-Eliezer for the decision to postpone the meeting, and claimed it was canceled because of Meretz's efforts.

"We explained to both the

prime minister and the housing minister that Meretz can not tolerate construction in the territories, and our explanations brought about the right decision, which saved the coalition complications in its important work," Sarid said. Meretz also threatened to quit the government over the issue.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said the Greater Jerusalem Forum will meet today in Efrat to discuss ways of combating the decision. "This damages Peres's credibility," Kashriel said. "He is going back to the days of yes and no." Kashriel said he met with Peres a month ago and was assured the government would discuss the plans, and had met with Ben-Eliezer last week and was assured the plans would be approved.

"Peres is not Rabin, and his policies toward Greater Jerusalem are very worrisome," said Kashriel, a Likud member. "The significance of today's decision is to 'dry up' the settlements that strengthen the status of Jerusalem, and this shows that Peres really does intend to divide Jerusalem."

Ben-Eliezer tried to bring similar plans for expanding settlements around Jerusalem to the committee - set up to monitor construction in the settlements - last spring, but the committee never met because of Palestinian and domestic opposition.



Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr (right) yesterday listens to Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe comment on new security arrangements in the city. "Israel and the Palestinians are on the way to the correct solution to coexistence," Orr told Natshe. In response to a complaint by his host that settlers in Hebron are committing provocations, Orr said both Israel and the PA must act to curb extremists on both sides. (Text: Ori Levy; photo: Brian Handler)

Agudat Yisrael to discuss Knesset list

HERB KEINON

AGUDAT Yisrael's Council of Sages is scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss the formation of the party's Knesset list.

A source close to the council said Gerrer Rebbe Pinchas Menachem Alter wants to see new faces on the list, and is considering replacing Aguda faction head Avraham Shapira with Bnei Brak contractor Moshe Haim Schoenfeld.

Among the other topics on the council's agenda is how to divide up the slots on the United Torah Judaism list between Agudat Yisrael and Degel Hatorah. Some in the party favor doing away completely with having to pick representatives from each faction, and instead want the council to pick the representatives it feels can best represent haredi interests, regardless of whether they are affiliated with Degel or Aguda.

Meanwhile, both Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu have been invited to address an Agudat

Yisrael convention on March 12, the first time candidates for prime minister have been invited to address such a gathering.

"The significance of this," said one Aguda source, "is that it shows the rabbis have not yet decided whom to support in the elections. If they had decided, there would be no reason to invite both candidates."

The invitation comes just a few days after Peres said in an interview with the Agudat Yisrael daily *Hamodia* that he has given up hope of winning haredi support. A Channel 2 poll in Bnei Brak last week gave Netanyahu 80 percent support, and Peres only 20%.

Netanyahu yesterday met with Rabbi Nissim Karlitz, one of the leading Lithuanian rabbis in Bnei Brak, during a visit to the city. The two discussed general matters, focusing on the need for increasing the role of Jewish education in the nation's educational system.

Supporting Netanyahu for prime minister did not come up directly in the meeting, but Netanyahu's aide Rabbi Motti Halperin said Karlitz's willingness to meet with Netanyahu already sent an important message. However, haredi sources said the fact that Netanyahu visited the city and did not visit the Ponevezh Yeshiva, one of the Lithuanian strongholds, "is a major failure for Netanyahu," Itim reported. However, Halperin said they were leaving the Ponevezh Yeshiva for a separate visit.

In addition to Peres and Netanyahu, Agudat Yisrael has also invited Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Ariel Sharon, who was housing minister in the last Likud government, to address the conference. Housing is one of the most critical issues in the haredi community, and Ben-Eliezer announced this week plans to build some 33,000 new units for the haredi sector over the next 10 years, a move which both Likud and Meretz dismissed as "cheap politicking."

Ethiopian leader: Riots staged due to years of keeping quiet

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE violent demonstrations over the blood donations from Ethiopian immigrants were not the result of incitement, but rather the cumulative effect of years of keeping quiet over varied grievances, a leader of the Ethiopian immigrant community said last night.

"We are totally opposed to attempts to make political capital out of our pain," Addisu Messala, head of the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants' Organization, told a mass rally at Tel Aviv's Mamm Auditorium last night. "Governments come and go," he said, "but the false decisions... the daily insults, remain."

Some 3,000 members of the community and their guests, including kessim, high school pupils, soldiers and students, attended the rally which was addressed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, Knesset Speaker

Shevah Weiss, and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

"We ask the people - both the leaders and the man in the street - to realize that even if our skin is black we are human beings like everyone else," Messala said.

Stressing that the community's anger should be turned to positive action, Messala said that, despite differences in customs, the Ethiopian community was always prepared to sit down and discuss ways of building bridges. "But we do not want a paternalistic attitude toward us," he stressed.

"I appeal to all members of our community: do not allow anyone to poison you with hatred, bitterness or alienation," Messala said. "We have to do all we can to oppose the poison of hatred which will leave us as a flower plucked from its stem.

"This is our land and our peo-

ple and in every family there are relatives who do not get along well together," he said.

Peres, who greeted the participants in Ambaric, said he supported the kessim in their struggle to be recognized. "I believe, like Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, that you are Jews in every way and must be recognized as such," Peres told the participants.

Tzaban again asked the chief rabbis to recognize the Ethiopians as being full Jews. "Most of the people accepted this a long time ago," he said, adding: "The Ethiopian immigrants have never stopped and we will never stop, and in the end, full recognition will come, so why add insults and suffering, when we can reduce the suffering?"

The commission of inquiry headed by former president Yitzhak Navon, which is looking into the community's grievances, will hold its first meeting tomorrow.

Arafat frees Jihad editor for Id al-Fitr

JON IMMANUEL

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat released imprisoned Islamic Jihad journalist Alas Siftawi on Monday night, and yesterday visited his family to offer greetings for Id al-Fitr, the three-day feast following Ramadan.

Siftawi was arrested on Saturday for publishing an editorial in the Islamic Jihad Gaza weekly newspaper *Istikhla* telling Arafat he had no right to swear on the Koran that he would defend the interests of the Palestinian people. Arafat did this while taking the oath of office as president of the Executive Authority of the Palestinian Council.

Siftawi, interviewed by phone, said Arafat released him "because he understood that it was not a personal attack on him." However, he said he received no word that his newspaper, whose offices were sealed shut, would be reopened.

Arafat yesterday paid Siftawi's family a visit to see his mother and honor his father, Assad

Siftawi, a leading Fatah activist in Gaza who held high-level contacts with Israel before the Oslo accords and was gunned down in Gaza two years ago.

Arafat also visited the home of jailed Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin and placed a wreath on the tomb of a *shaheed* (martyr) in Gaza cemetery. It is traditional to pay respects to departed relatives on Id al-Fitr.

Siftawi said Islamic Jihad had not changed its attitude toward the peace process. "It is not a peace process it is a war process," he said using the exact words as Yigal Amir, the confessed assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The Israelis do not have good intentions and the Palestinians are always under economic, political and military pressure." The closure is one proof of that, Siftawi said.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday ordered a continuation of the closure to prevent possible attacks by Islamic extremists.

Report: PA Police helped keep order on Temple Mount

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

HUNDREDS of Palestinian Police and Preventive Security Force agents were on the Temple Mount this past weekend during prayers marking the end of Ramadan, Channel 2's political editor Gadi Sukenik reported last night.

Sukenik said the policemen, who were in civilian clothes, helped keep order on the Temple Mount, while the Israeli Police kept order outside and deployed for any possible incidents at the site.

According to the report, the Palestinian security men were among the hundreds of thousands of Moslems who came to the Temple Mount shrines last Thursday night, and were unarmed but had regular entry permits into Jerusalem. On the face of it, this would be in violation of the Oslo accords, since the Palestinian Police is not permitted to operate in Jerusalem, especially on the Temple Mount.

Police sources said that as in past years, Wakf guards and Arab scouts helped in crowd control on the Temple Mount. The police categorically denied that any Palestinian policemen were used to keep order during last Friday's prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

ELECTIONS

At this point Zucker lost patience and ended the meeting, telling both major parties to reach an agreement and not bother him again until they had one. The Knesset cannot afford to have the date-setting process drag out for another two weeks, he repeated.

Cohen and Eitan then went off

together, and, after having traded accusations all day about the other's unwillingness to reach an agreement, agreed on what was virtually the only compromise date left - May 29. The 28th had already been rejected by the religious parties as being too soon after Shavnot, since they feared last-minute campaigning would lead to massive desecration of the holiday. However, these parties decided they could live with the 29th, so the date was settled.

EU envoy: Syria edging toward open trade, borders

THOMAS O'DWYER

SYRIA has changed its attitude to the Middle East peace process and is edging toward the concept of free trade and open borders, the ambassador of the European Union said yesterday.

Jean-Paul Jesse, the newly appointed head of the European Commission Delegation in Israel, said the Europeans and Middle Eastern states are in a totally new economic and political environment in which Israel and the EU are forging a new type of relationship.

Briefing reporters at the EU offices in Tel Aviv, Jesse said Israelis either lacked knowledge of the EU or harbored some resentment of the community's past stance on Middle East questions.

Jesse said he wanted to leave history behind and concentrate on informing Israelis about the EU and improving their relations with it.

The EU has become more deeply involved in the Middle East peace process since a 27-nation Barcelona conference last November that launched the idea of establishing a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area within 15 years.

In the context of Barcelona,

Syria has agreed to open trade and cooperation talks with the EU, and Jesse said the move was significant.

He said an EU delegation to Damascus found President Hafez Assad "in a good mood."

"Syria was reluctant in the past to embark on an association with the EU in the context of a peace process involving Israel," Jesse said.

"Now the context has changed. Syria is heading in the direction of opening up trade, of opening its borders. In return, the EU can help the Syrians develop their economic systems, help with their banks, help them organize ministries."

He admitted that human rights issues in Syria are still a problem for the EU but the community considered the underpinning of the peace process a more important prize than dealing with every outstanding issue. "Rome wasn't built in a day," he added.

Jesse described the trade and cooperation deal Israel signed with the EU last year as an "economic pillar in a new relationship" which will bring prosperity to Israel and greatly increase its economic ties with Europe.

Religious MKs want bill against non-Orthodox conversions

LIAT COLLINS

MKS from religious parties are preparing for a discussion on a bill aimed at preventing recognition of Reform and Conservative conversion performed in Israel.

Sixteen MKs have signed the bill, a response to a High Court decision to allow the Knesset to decide whether such conversions would be recognized for civil registration purposes.

On Monday, the religious parties mobilized in force against the first readings of several Basic Laws which they said could be used by the courts to upset the status quo on religious issues. The Meretz faction had insisted on raising the bills despite a request from Prime Minister Shimon Peres, with an eye on the religious vote.

At the last minute, after nearly four hours' discussion, Knesset Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker agreed to postpone the vote when he realized the large turnout by opposition and religious MKs would mean they could not pass. His decision also apparently stemmed from the pressure Shas leader Aryeh Deri was placing on Peres.

(Continued from Page 1) its coalition majority - decide. Michael Eitan (Likud) retorted that if Cohen tried this, the Likud would drag out the vote with no-confidence motions and a filibuster, "until in the end we'll be at June 4 anyway."

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street.

THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION mourns the passing of **RHODA GOLDMAN** a longtime friend and supporter of Jerusalem and extends condolences to its Board member and friend Richard Goldman and all the family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moslem MKs ask to delay debate - Hadash faction chairman Hashem Mahameed yesterday asked Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss to postpone discussions on the first reading of two bills on Jerusalem scheduled to be raised in the plenum today. Mahameed reminded Weiss that it had been agreed in the past that votes on important issues would not take place on days when any part of the Arab sector is celebrating a holiday. By press time, the bills had not been removed from the plenum's agenda. *Liat Collins*

Ramon: Gun licenses for only 3 years - Interior Minister Haim Ramon yesterday decided that new gun licenses to be issued starting next year, and licenses to be renewed at the end of 1996, will be valid for only three years, instead of the present five. License holders will now be required to practice annually at a firing range. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Yossi Meiman of Ha'aretz, expert on the GSS (General Security Services)

Steve Rodan of the Jerusalem Post, an Investigative Reporter

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Weizman: Drivers are responsible for 90% of accidents

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE two people killed yesterday in road accidents involving trucks brought the number killed on the road since the beginning of the year to 68.

The police yesterday retracted the fatal accident in which three children were killed near Kibbutz Lavi on Monday. Truck driver Salah Hamadi, 25, from Buena village in the Galilee, is to appear before Nazareth Magistrate's Court today for a remand hearing on suspicion of causing the accident.

Three victims are being treated at Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Seriously injured Hodaya Seri, 9, yesterday showed signs of improvement, but has not yet regained consciousness. Avi Cohen, 12, is still in a coma. Both are still in the intensive care unit.

Bus driver Nadim Matar, 40, the father of four from Ibbilin village near Haifa, is recovering from jaw surgery and is listed in satisfactory condition. Told yesterday that three of his young passengers had been killed, he burst into tears and said: "I saw the truck coming and did everything in my power to save those children, who are like my own."

Six children are recovering in Poriya Hospital and are listed in satisfactory condition with light injuries. Reuma Weizman, wife of the president, visited the injured at both hospitals.

Meanwhile, pupils from the victims' regional elementary school yesterday lit candles and set up an improvised monument to their classmates.

"Drivers are responsible for 90% of accidents," President Ezer Weizman said yesterday during a visit to Beduin towns in the South, to mark the Moslem festival of Id al-Fitr.

"There is too much talk about accidents and too little done," Weizman added. "The police have to punish offenders without hesitation. The Israeli driver believes he is driving a tank or a plane to war. He sees a car or a bus in front of him and just has to pass them."

"Drivers must remember that theirs is a lethal vehicle. Cars can cause tremendous damage. That is a fact. It is not the roads that are to blame or the system. The drivers have to learn to keep within the speed limit and to adjust their driving to the condition of the road or to visibility."

Perhaps, the president said, if the Israeli driver realizes that his vehicle is so dangerous, it will help in the battle on the roads.

To keep them in line, Weizman said, "I would like to see another 500 traffic policemen on the roads."

As experts continued to argue over who is responsible for the bloodshed on the roads, a road safety officer blamed the authorities.

According to Transport Ministry road safety inspector Menashe Shapira, 19-year-old soldiers who have recently received licenses and only have experience driving light vehicles are then allowed to sit behind the wheel of heavy trucks. "In other Western countries, such drivers have to sit alongside an experienced driver for an apprenticeship before taking over the wheel," he said.



Police examine the wreckage of a minibus, one of whose passengers was killed yesterday morning when a truck hit it and it overturned outside Pisgat Ze'ev. The minibus was carrying nine Bulgarian workers to Modi'in when the accident occurred; eight workers and the driver were lightly injured. At Gazit junction in the Galilee, Miriam Harari, 58, of Givat Hamoreh was killed yesterday when the car she was driving slammed into the rear of a semitrailer. In Ramat Gan, a traffic policeman driving a motor scooter suffered light injuries when his scooter was rammed from behind by a car and he was thrown into the path of another car, which struck him. A total of 36 persons were injured, two of them seriously, in six other accidents yesterday. (Brian Henders)

Bill would let police order trucks off road

LIAT COLLINS

A BILL giving police the right to order a truck off the road for 30 days if it is overloaded or the driver has been driving non-stop longer than the permitted number of hours passed its first reading in the Knesset last night.

MK Gideon Patt (Likud), who initiated the bill, noted that last year more than a quarter of road accident victims were injured in accidents involving trucks. Under the new bill, which is expected to pass second and third readings soon, if a truck or commercial vehicle is carrying more than 25 percent above the permitted weight, it can be ordered off the roads for a month by police officers above the rank of inspector.

"If a vehicle is sidelined for 30 days, its owners will in the future make sure that it is not carrying a single gram extra weight and the driver is not on the road longer than the permitted time," Patt said.

If the owners can prove the drivers were acting against specific orders or that they had taken steps to prevent them from committing the violation, the road ban can be cancelled.

Similarly, the owner can appeal to the courts for the ban to be rescinded. In the Knesset on Monday, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar complained that legislation restricting drivers to a quota of hours and placing other limits on truck transport are not being passed by the House because MKs claim they contravene the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

Eitan: Smoking costs economy NIS 3 billion a year

THE economic damage caused by smoking amounts to NIS 3 billion a year, whereas the income from taxes on cigarettes amounts to NIS1.5. MK Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) yesterday told a meeting of the Knesset subcommittee on drugs, which he chairs.

Dr. Tuvia Lehrer, of the Health Ministry and Chairman of the Anti-Smoking Association, said that the number of adult Israelis who smoke has dropped since 1970 from 42% to 28%.

Liav Collins

Histadrut absent from sessions on occupational hazards

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Histadrut should have sent a representative to sessions of an international conference on occupational hazards taking place in Jerusalem, participants say.

"I would like to see much more involvement by the Histadrut in the protection of workers from health risks faced on the job," said Dr. Alma Avni, a participant and head of the Health Ministry's Occupational Health Unit. "The unions should demand safe workplaces as much as they do higher wages."

American unionist Stanley Hill noted in his lecture that US trade unions cannot rely solely on the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration to guarantee for their workers a workplace free from occupational hazards. The unions are directly involved in reporting hazards and demanding that employers correct them and that the public authorities enforce the laws.

The organizers of the three-day International Conference on Communicable Diseases as Occupation Hazards said last night they had approached the Histadrut and four of its trade unions for a sponsorship but none expressed any interest, citing financial problems.

Asked why no one from the labor federation was present at the conference at the International Convention Center, Histadrut spokesman Yossi Leibovitz said it "always tries to make part... in safety conferences to which it is invited."

Histadrut representatives, he added, "plan to attend on the final day [today] for the summation. In addition, the safety division will receive all written material from the conference."

Right-wing activists reach compromise over demonstration

EVELYN GORDON

A DEMONSTRATION against the administrative detention of right-wing activists will be allowed to include a large sign, but a smaller one than the demonstrators had originally wanted, according to a compromise approved yesterday by the High Court of Justice.

The demonstration, organized by Mateh Ma'amatz, was meant to be a two-week protest vigil opposite the Prime Minister's Office, manned by a few dozen people. The centerpiece of the vigil was to be a large sign, 16 meters long by 6 meters tall, saying "The Left's democracy: PLO murderers go free; opponents of [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres suffer arrest and persecution."

The police were willing to approve the vigil, but not the sign, and tried several different tactics to forbid it. Eventually, however, they said they would agree if the demonstrators got a permit for the sign from the city of Jerusalem. The city's urban beautification department approved the permit, but Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert overturned the decision two days later, saying that with election season on the horizon, he did not want to set a precedent for allowing massive signs all over the city. Mateh Ma'amatz therefore petitioned the High Court.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Yitzhak Zamir and Dalia Dornier sharply criticized both sides, and suggested that they find a negotiated solution.

The demonstrators do not have any inherent right to a sign of a certain size, Goldberg said, and the High Court has better things to do with its time than rule on the dimensions of a poster.

Under pressure from the court, the two sides agreed on a sign which will be 2.5m. by 6m. — smaller than Mateh Ma'amatz had wanted, but larger than the 1.5m. by 3m. the city had pushed for.

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Saddam's defectors return to Iraq

AMMAN (Reuters) - Two senior Iraqi defectors and their families crossed the Jordanian-Iraqi border into Iraq yesterday, Jordanian border officials said, six months after fleeing the other way.

A convoy of limousines provided by Jordan's Royal Palace whisked Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Saddam Kamel and their families to the Iraqi checkpoint, where they were received by a large delegation, witnesses said.

The Jordanian news agency Petra said that before they left Jordan's King Hussein received a letter from Kamel Hassan thanking him for his hospitality during their stay in Amman.

Kamel Hassan, who ran Iraq's secret military program, fled to Jordan last August with his brother Saddam Kamel and his wives, both daughters of Saddam Hussein. The lieutenant-general quickly called for the overthrow of the Iraqi government.

But yesterday they began to retrace their steps, accompanied by the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan whom the defectors went to see in the morning to arrange their departure plans, Jordanian sources said.

Diplomats said an unknown fate awaited Kamel Hassan at the hands of the Iraqi president, known to deal mercilessly with opponents. But his return could be a political coup for Saddam who has been trying hard since August to lessen the damage of the defections to his grip on power.

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti said the decision to leave was a matter which Kamel Hassan and his family "decided on their own with their free choice after conducting private contacts with Baghdad."

Qatar foils anti-gov't plot

DOHA (Reuters) - Qatar said yesterday it had foiled an anti-government plot and arrested the perpetrators, and one official said bedouins loyal to the Gulf Arab ruler were involved.

The cabinet of the oil-rich state, which has the third largest gas reserves in the world, held an emergency session on the first day of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr to discuss the attempted plot and security measures.

The cabinet held an emergency session about the circumstances in the foiled plot and proceedings of the investigation. Qatar news agency said. "It denounced the plot and supported measures to preserve security and stability."

The cabinet meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani. Qatari authorities said the attempt was backed by outside forces and that it had arrested a number of perpetrators. There was no further official word on who was behind it.

But one senior government official said bedouins loyal to Qatar's former emir, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, were involved. Sheikh Khalifa, 64, was overthrown in a bloodless palace coup in June last year by his 46-year-old son, the current emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.



A Croatian man dressed in a Hitler mask points to the Moslem part of Mostar and screams, 'Moslem back,' at the main checkpoint which separates the two ethnic parts of the city. Mostar was officially reunified yesterday but scuffles broke out, shots were fired, and Croat policemen failed to appear for joint patrols to monitor the city.

Serbs order evacuation of all their areas in Sarajevo

BRYAN BRUMLEY SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serb leaders, playing to the fears of Sarajevo's Serbs, ordered them yesterday to leave all neighborhoods that are to be handed over to the Moslem-led government.

Dozens of trucks and cars towing trailers drove out of Serb areas, but no buses were spotted in the hours after the organized exodus was to begin. Heavy snow fell, perhaps hampering the Serb plans.

In the northern district of Vogosca, Serbs removed piles of documents from the town hall and set them ablaze outside. Workers stripped the building of anything of value, down to doors and old chairs.

The Serb order was a blatant challenge to the spirit of Bosnia's peace accord. A wholesale evacuation would be one of the final chapters in a war waged solely to create ethnically homogeneous areas through huge shifts of civilians.

Bosnian Serbs vehemently oppose the provision in the peace accord that reunites the country's symbolic heart, Sarajevo, under

the rule of their former foes by March 19. NATO plans to begin a gradual transfer on Friday.

Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, accused Bosnian Serb leaders of trying to trigger a mass flight from Sarajevo for their own ends.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbs' political leader and a pre-war inhabitant of the city, has always asserted that Serbs could not coexist with other ethnic groups in the capital.

"A number of people have left, but it's not the mass exodus the Serb authorities appear to want," Janowski said. Bosnian Serb TV broadcasts urging people to leave are just "part of a campaign of manipulation to get people out, to create a psychosis," he said.

An estimated 50,000 people remain in the five Serb districts of Sarajevo, and 40,000 have fled since the peace plan was initiated three months ago, Western diplo-

mats said. Janowski estimated that 20,000 Serbs had left.

In another bitterly divided city, Mostar, barriers fell yesterday - but for only one hour. At noon Croats and Moslems were to try to smother animosities lingering from their yearlong war in 1993, and allow free movement in the city and establish joint police patrols.

About 300 Moslems did cross over to Croat-held areas in the first hour. The free movement fell apart after four young Moslems crossed in a car, angering Croats who only want people to cross on foot.

The Moslem youths, apparently unmoved by the shouts of Croats, crashed the car. Two fled back to the city's Moslem sector, and two others were taken away by Croatian police.

Moslems then hoisted a Moslem emblem on their side, drawing Croat ire. The checkpoint remained open, but no one crossed.

The joint police patrols never materialized. Both sides raised objections to the agreement on how to conduct them.

If residents of Mostar cannot overcome their enmities, then the Moslem and Croat federation that is to rule half of Bosnia - and thus the peace accord itself - is given little chance of survival.

The order to evacuate Serb-held districts of Sarajevo, announced by Bosnian Serb media, confused many of the city's Serbs. They knew only that the districts must be transferred by March 19, and their leaders had not informed them that NATO plans a gradual transfer beginning Friday in the northern suburb of Vogosca.

In Vogosca this morning, the few residents on the streets were confused about dates. Some old people said they had been ordered to assemble in the main square to board buses.

Gojko Kljickovic, a Serb official overseeing the evacuation, admitted to problems providing money, fuel, transport and accommodation for refugees. (AP)

Police probing IRA bomb find explosives

LONDON (Reuters) - Police investigating an IRA bomb that blew apart a London bus, apparently killing its carrier, said yesterday they had discovered large amounts of explosives and bomb-making equipment after overnight raids in the capital.

Meanwhile, the BBC and Irish radio reported that a survivor of Sunday's blast was no longer considered to be a suspect.

British police, who would not discount the possibility that the badly injured man was an accomplice of the IRA bomber, refused to comment. But reporters said the man was no longer being guarded by armed police.

Commander John Grieve, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the overnight raids followed extensive inquiries by detectives who were continuing to gather forensic evidence.

"Officers visited and searched a number of premises in the London area overnight. We have recovered significant amounts of explosives and bomb-making equipment," he said in a statement.

No arrests were made, and police later said they had released without charge two men who were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The bomb, which police believe exploded prematurely as it was being carried to a high-profile target, was the third incident in London in 10 days since the IRA ended a 17-month truce in frustration over the lack of progress toward all-party political talks in Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister John Major

vowed to hunt down the bombers and give the highest priority to the security of citizens both on the mainland and in Northern Ireland.

"Each of the three bombs we have seen in the last 10 days or so have been the act of men callously unconcerned about innocent death or injury," Major told parliament.

A series of Irish Republican Army "volunteers" have been killed by their own bombs in the group's 25-year campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.

The IRA broke its truce on February 9 with a truck bomb in the Docklands area of east London that killed two people and injured 100.

The Guardian newspaper yesterday quoted police sources as saying the suspects in Sunday's blast could also have been behind the Docklands explosion.

The IRA, eager to strike at economic targets on the British mainland, planted a bomb in a telephone box last week. London's theatre district was evacuated and the device defused.

The IRA, which has always argued that the propaganda value of a bomb on the mainland is worth a dozen explosions in Northern Ireland, sent a chilling warning that it might broaden its campaign.

"If what is happening in London doesn't get the message home, the same signal will be sent by activity in other major British cities," an IRA source said.

The new attacks have shattered hopes of lasting peace just as weary Northern Ireland was recovering from a quarter of a century of conflict that took 3,200 lives.

Mir celebrates 10 years in space

MOSCOW (AP) - Surpassing all expectations, the world's only functioning space station marked 10 years in orbit yesterday with Russian officials hoping to keep it aloft into the next century.

While space officials bragged about the Mir on earth, two Russians and a German were thought to be holding their own quiet celebration in orbit somewhere over the Pacific Ocean.

"I suppose they will drink something," Valery Udalov, deputy chief of flights at the mission control center in Kaliningrad, said of Sergei Avdeyev, Yuri Gidzenko and Thomas Reiter.

"Every cosmonaut has a private bag of personal things, and I presume they will open the bags and drink what they sashed away."

The decade mark was reached at 12:29 a.m. Moscow time. A Soviet rocket carrying the first module for the Mir had blasted off Feb. 20, 1986, from Baikonur on the steppes of Central Asia.

Still immersed in the Cold War, Soviet officials gave no size or weight of the mysterious station at the time, saying only that it contained six docking ports to accommodate visiting spacecraft or laboratory modules. Experts said it was only supposed to last until the early 1990s.

Now, an expanded Mir is the

centerpiece of a space program badly in need of cash, and Russian officials called a news conference for last night to ballyhoo the achievement.

Western countries have paid hundreds of millions of dollars to send their astronauts for months-long stays on the Mir.

With funding from the US space agency NASA, which seeks Russia's help in constructing an international space station, Moscow plans to keep it orbit for another few years.

But the cramped and aging space station, which weighs more than 130 tons, has already endured power supply problems and needs frequent maintenance from its inhabitants.

Marcia Smith, a specialist in aerospace policy for the Congressional Research Service in Washington, calls it "a stretch" to try to keep the Mir operating until the year 2000.

"It's like having a car that has 200,000 miles on it and deciding to keep it until it has 300,000 miles on it," she said.

Without someone on board, it is assumed the Mir would soon meet the fate of its predecessor, Salyut-7, which failed and went out of control after becoming unmanned in 1986 - the year the Mir was launched.

Russians claim upper hand in battle with Chechens

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian soldiers fought hundreds of well-armed guerrillas through the streets of a small Chechen town yesterday.

Moscow's top commander in the rebel province said his troops had inflicted heavy losses on the rebels and aimed to finish off the operation in Novogrozny by today.

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov said in the Chechen capital Grozny that up to 170 rebels had died in the five-day battle compared to 38 Russian soldiers, Inter-Tass news agency reported. It was not clear how the figure for rebel dead was established.

The Russian operation to capture the rebel stronghold would be completed "today or tomorrow," Tikhomirov added, saying attempts to talk the guerrillas into surrender had failed.

Republican decision time in New Hampshire

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - In a contest seen as a crucial test of strength for Bob Dole, the fragile Republican front-runner, the northeastern state of New Hampshire voted yesterday in America's leadoff presidential primary.

For Pat Buchanan, it's a bid to stay atop a wave of support from social blue-collar conservatives that has driven him past other, better-financed rivals.

Dole appeared upbeat yesterday morning as he and his wife, Elizabeth, accompanied New Hampshire Gov. Steve Merrill and his wife, Heather, to the polls where they voted for Dole.

"We're in the home stretch," Dole said before petting a black Labrador wearing a Dole sign. "Dogs for Dole - it's looking good," he added.

For Buchanan, the New Hampshire outcome was a bid to stay atop a wave of support from social conservatives and blue-collar Republicans that has driven him past other, better-financed rivals.

"We're bringing people into the Republican party, working men and women," Buchanan

said today on CBS television.

Poll data showed Dole, the Senate majority leader, fighting Buchanan for first, with former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander in close pursuit. Publisher Steve Forbes has seen his lead steadily sink to fourth.

All in the Top Four have pledged - no matter what the New Hampshire outcome - to stick with the race as it moves next to Arizona, South Carolina and the Dakotas. But yesterday's vote was expected to winnow out those stuck at the bottom of the pack.

There also was a Democratic primary, although President Clinton had no major opposition.

In the first voting after midnight in two tiny towns in northern New Hampshire - Dixville Notch and Hart's Location - Dole won by one vote over Alexander.

Dole captured 14 of the first 39 votes cast in the Republican primaries. Alexander had 13. Buchanan was next with five, and Forbes had four. Dick Lugar and dropout Phil Gramm each had one vote, along with a write-in for Colin

Powell.

"However it comes out tomorrow, I'm going to be doing very well," Alexander said as he finished his 160-km walk across the state. Light snow and freezing rain was forecast across most of the state for the day.

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner predicted a high turnout, suggesting 76 percent of the state's registered voters would go to the polls.

In their final pitches, candidates trumpeted their "visions" for the country even as they continued sniping at each other.

The fiery Buchanan has likened the gathering strength of his campaign to "peasants with pitchforks coming over the hill" and predicted, "We will go all the way. They will not stop us."

Visiting a computer company, Dole tried to sharply distinguish his campaign from Buchanan's, maintaining the commentator's restrictive trade views would hurt American businesses which now thrive in international markets.

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Arabs now as preoccupied with Jerusalem as Israelis

It is not only Israeli candidates who are obsessed with the Jerusalem question. It is also the focus of intense, behind-the-scenes contacts in the Arab world.

Two minor reports shed light on the Jerusalem issue.

The first noted that King Hussein is making a personal donation for the purchase of new rugs for the Aqsa Mosque as a token of "Hashemite concern" for the holy place.

The second was an announcement from the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters in Vienna that not all of its departments will move to Gaza. Gaza City will get the agency's information and personnel departments, and the commissioner's office. But the most important departments — education and

health among them — will move to Amman.

The paradoxical conclusion is that, following the Palestinian elections, the natural development is going to be a greater role for Jordan in Jerusalem. (That does not, however, mean reviving the defunct "Jordanian option.")

The king's decision to donate carpets to Aqsa came after new moves in Jordan-Gulf relations.

The Saudi foreign minister's visit to Amman last year was the first time Jordan officially recognized the Saudi dynasty's title of guardians of the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina.

What Amman got in return was not revealed; it could well be connected to Jordan's connection to the Aqsa.

King Hussein later visited

Mecca, meeting Prince Abdullah, who was filling in for the ailing King Fahd.

He then went to Cairo to see President Hosni Mubarak, the first such visit since the 1990 Kuwait crisis.

Not much was revealed of this meeting either, except that Mubarak called Arafat in Gaza to invite him to tripartite talks.

The official reason for inviting Arafat to meet Mubarak and Hussein was "the need to help the Palestinians in the final status negotiations with Israel."

But we can guess the two leaders want to compel Arafat to accept an "Arab" solution to the problem of Jerusalem's holy places, not a "Palestinian" one. Under the "Arab" formula, Jordan would play the major role, with some

are more and more exposed to Iranian subversion and intimidation.

Last week the US Embassy in Tel Aviv denied reports in the Arab media that a visiting US envoy, Robert Pelletreau, had asked Mubarak to mediate with Iraq as a favor to US oil companies. These companies are keen not to be left out of shipping Iraqi oil once Baghdad and the UN hammer out an agreement on limited sales.

It is conceivable that the need of the Arab states for better coordination against external challenges is making them more lenient toward Saddam Hussein.

The day King Hussein and Mubarak met in Cairo, Egypt announced "no one is entitled to speak in the name of Iraq except Iraqis themselves."

This remark was directed at King Hussein who has tried to organize the fragmented Iraqi opposition's efforts to topple Saddam.

On Iraq, King Hussein had to concede to Egypt. Mubarak in turn accepted a formula worked out between the king and the Saudis on Jerusalem — and Rais Arafat is going to hear it at the coming get-together.

ARAFAT'S PROBLEMS do not end at other Arab leaders. He has some at home with Palestinians. Reports on talks between the government and Orient House about the future of Jerusalem bothered Arafat a lot.

The bother comes not least from a suspicion that Peres might abandon him in favor of the "alternative leadership." Also, he knows

the east Jerusalem leaders are better tuned in to the thinking of the Arab world than he is.

Arafat's failure to stimulate the voters of east Jerusalem into heading for polling stations enabled Faisal Husseini to declare immediately after the elections that there will be a "Moslem-Arab" solution for the city.

That day, Israeli public opinion was preoccupied with reports of the contacts by the government with Orient House.

Peres had to send Uri Savir on a well-timed mission to Arafat to assure him that his was still the only working political address.

So, it is not only the Israeli right that may reject results of such contacts. Arafat may also, not because of what they may include, but with whom they were negotiated.

Iran keeps Rushdie's death sentence, but will not send out assassins

Iran's foreign minister was quoted this week as saying a death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy could not be withdrawn, but pledged Tehran would not send anyone to carry it out.

"In its negotiations with European countries, the Foreign Ministry has stressed the validity of Imam Khomeini's fatwa and the impossibility of its withdrawal," Ali Akbar Velayati told the English-language daily *Iran News*. "Of course, as already mentioned, this does not mean that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to dispatch commandos to kill the writer of *Satanic Verses*."

The European Parliament urged Iran to make a written declaration that it will not carry out the fatwa and will restrain Iranians from trying to. The fatwa was issued by Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in February 1989, condemning the Indian-born author to death for alleged blasphemy against Islam in his novel.

Rushdie met with France's foreign affairs minister this week after urging the European Union to pressure Iran to lift its death sentence against him. "Iran needs to become a civilized nation, something it hasn't done up to now," Rushdie told the TFI television network. "I think it's high time, that seven years is symbolic enough, it's high time that something happen," Rushdie said. "It's time for Europe to employ firmer methods. Everybody wants this to stop, not just me." (Reuter)

Syria to host Iraqi opposition conference

Preparations are underway to hold a broad-based conference of Iraqi opposition groups within the next month to find ways to topple Saddam Hussein without fragmenting Iraq, a leading opposition figure said this week.

Masha'an al-Jabouri, leader of the Iraqi Homeland Party, told reporters that he will visit Tehran to meet Ayatollah Bakr al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the main Iraqi Shi'ite Moslem movement, to secure his support and sound out Iranian officials.

The disclosure on the planned conference in Damascus, clearly held with the blessing of the Syrian government, came one day after another opposition group — al-Wifaq al-Watani al-Iraqi, or "Iraqi National Accord" — announced it was opening an office in Jordan, the first allowed to operate there.

That was seen as a move by King Hussein to enhance his role as the central figure in pressing for change in Baghdad, the one-time ally from which he is increasingly distancing himself.

He has proposed a federation of the country's main groups — Kurds, Shi'ite Moslems and Sunni Moslems — to prevent the country breaking up into mutually hostile cantons. Many dissidents argue that this will only hasten the country's fragmentation.

Syria, Iraq's arch rival, has for some time been seeking to muster Iraqi opposition groups in Damascus to set up an alternative to the main opposition umbrella,

the Iraqi National Council, based in the Kurdish self-rule enclave in northern Iraq.

Al-Jabouri, a member of a major Iraqi clan which has been turning against Saddam, said: "We're keen to ensure a climate for success for this meeting because the failure of previous meetings to produce positive results has led to Saddam Hussein staying in power, thereby increasing the suffering of the Iraqi people."

He said the Iraqi National Accord's office in Amman "was a reward for its positive attitude" toward what he termed King Hussein's real objective, a federation of Hashemite Jordan and a post-Saddam Iraq, once ruled by the king's family.

King Hussein has in recent months met with Iraqi opposition leaders seeking to persuade them to unite against Saddam. However, they remain deeply divided.

"The Jordanian project ... contravenes the views of other national Iraqi currents," al-Jabouri commented.

"Those who dream of dividing Iraq will face a civil war ... and we will do all that we can to prevent such a development," he stressed.

Asked about his recent proposal to Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam to open the border with Iraq, al-Jabouri said: "My proposal is aimed at facilitating the movement of people and the transfer of food and commodities into Iraq to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. (AP)



Iraqi children at a Baghdad amusement park ride on a donkey-pulled cart yesterday during the first day of Id al-Fitr, the fast-breaking holiday of Ramadan. Most of the park's mechanical rides are out of order due to continued UN economic sanctions. (Reuter)

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Major under pressure over Iraq arms scandal

Britain's attorney general, accused of legal and personal blunders by a judicial inquiry into arms sales to Iraq, this week fended off opposition demands to resign.

"Nobody could have acted more fairly," Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell said to shouts of "Resign, resign!" from opposition Labour Party legislators in the House of Commons.

Conservative Prime Minister John Major has refused to fire Lyell and another top official, Chief Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave, who were central to a secret relaxation of curbs on arms sales to Iraq in the late '80s.

His stance may result in the government losing a February 26 vote on the report.

In the report released last week after a three-year inquiry, Judge Sir Richard Scott said Lyell was personally at fault for trying to suppress evidence of official collusion in 1992 when three exporters were charged with illegal arms sales. The trial judge overruled him and the case collapsed.

In the Commons, Lyell said the judge's criticisms were based on a difference of legal opinion, and the report "cast not the slightest doubt on my integrity."

Labour's legal affairs spokesman in the Commons, John Morris,

accused Lyell of "breathtaking incompetence."

But Major faces growing pressure over the affair, which shows no sign of going away as the government has hoped.

In an opinion poll conducted for the London *Sunday Times* a majority of voters said the two ministers criticized in the report should step down and Labour Party spokesman Robin Cook said the government defense of their position was beginning to falter.

Major, already badly trailing Labour in opinion polls in the run-up to the next general election, due by May 1997, agreed to meet dissident lawmaker Peter Thurnham.

Major could face a perilously close vote in parliament next week when the House of Commons votes on the issue which has now plagued him for four years.

Major set up the inquiry after the collapse of a court case against three executives of engineering firm Matrix Churchill who were accused of illegally selling arms to Iraq.

One of the accused was working for Britain's secret services and a former minister told the trial that the government had tacitly supported such arms sales.

Sixty-two percent of voters sounded out by the *Sunday Times* thought Lyell and Waldegrave should resign. An overwhelming

83 percent said they believed ministers sometimes lied to cover up changes of policy.

In Johannesburg, former British spy Paul Grecian was described this week as an untruthful person and denied bail for a third time prior to his hearing on possible extradition to the United States.

Justice C.F. Eloff of the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg said the serious charges Grecian faced in the US placed him as a high risk category person to flee South Africa rather than face possible extradition. Eloff also said Grecian came across as an untruthful person.

The extradition hearing is scheduled for March 25.

Grecian was arrested in South Africa in December under a US warrant on charges of bank fraud, conspiracy to violate arms export control law and making false statements in connection with illegal arms sales to Iraq.

He was director of a British company called Ordec that supplied Iraq with shell fuses from 1983 to 1990, pretending they were destined for Jordan.

Grecian and two other Ordec executives were convicted in Britain in 1992 of exporting illegal arms to Iraq. But an appeals court last year overturned the verdict, saying evidence showed Grecian

had been a spy for British intelligence and was acting with their support.

Ordec also was indicted in the US in 1993 for involving a New Jersey munitions dealer in arms sales to Iraq.

A year ago, a U federal judge ordered Raxon Technology Corp. of Wayne, New Jersey, to close within six months and fined it \$500,000 for planning an illegal shipment of 300,000 artillery parts to Iraq before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. (News agencies)

Islamic extremists urge army to topple Mubarak

As Egypt prepared for one of the most important holidays of the Islamic year, a radical Moslem group warned it would campaign to bring about "a popular and military uprising."

The statement from the Vanguard of Conquest also urged the army to join the extremists in trying to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

The Vanguard is believed to be a splinter group of the Jihad, which was blamed for the 1981 assassination of president Anwar Sadat. The government cracked down hard on the group in 1994 and insisted that most of its leadership had been jailed or executed.

The statement was faxed to news agencies in Cairo. There was no way to verify it independently, though it followed the format of previous communiques from the group.

It arrived on the eve of the Id el-Fitr holiday, a three-day celebration marking the end of the Ramadan month of fasting, which ends today.

Police killed two suspected extremists in a shootout in the village of Roda near Malawi, 260 km south of Cairo.

Police said the men were wanted for the killing of a police

colonel last week. A third suspect escaped, they said.

In a related development, the Interior Ministry marked the Id by releasing 269 Moslem militants who have repented. More than 1,000 other prisoners have already been freed.

According to opposition newspapers, the government also banned Moslems from offering holiday prayers outside more than 160 mosques in Egypt. Police fear that large crowds in neighborhoods and villages dominated by Moslem militants could spark disturbances.

The Vanguard's statement pledged to continue efforts aimed at overthrowing the government, charging that Mubarak's regime was a stooge of the Americans in the Middle East.

"The Id has come again, and the Vanguard of Conquest, thanks to God, continues its fight toward the popular and military uprising," the statement said.

The statement sent special greetings to military servicemen and added: "We don't need to repeat our calls on you, our brothers, in the Egyptian armed forces to join the Moslems' ranks and not be left behind those ... who managed to sweep tyrants away." (AP)

France seizes arms from suspected Moslem terrorists

French police arrested 24 people and seized a cache of arms in raids on suspected Moslem extremists in the Paris region this week, police sources said.

Forty-five shoulder-fired weapons, 15 handguns, about 15,000 cartridges, explosive powder and equipment for changing the caliber of weapons were found in one swoop at Persan Beaumont in the Val d'Oise district near Paris.

The 24 people arrested in early morning raids on some 15 locations in and around the capital were mostly Algerian and Tunisian citizens — with just one Frenchman, at whose home the weapons were found, judicial sources said.

The Interior Ministry said the crackdown was a follow-up to an investigation opened in 1994 into a Moslem network headed by two brothers of Algerian origin suspected of supporting militants fighting Algeria's military government.

A ministry statement gave details of the arms seized but did not mention arrests. Judicial sources said that Taoufik Ayari — a Tunisian who had been sought since the network was broken up with the arrests of 93 people — including brothers Brahim and Mohammed Chalabi in 1994, was among those detained. (Reuter)

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The Orient House dilemma

THE government's denials of Likud charges on the issue of Jerusalem have been uncommonly vehement. But the announcement by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal that foreign officials would be barred from Orient House, and foreign ministry pleas to foreign officials to avoid visits to Israel in the next three months indicate that the charges have hit a raw nerve.

Perhaps most disturbing is the evasiveness and disingenuousness with which ministers are responding to the Likud's accusations. Prime Minister Shimon Peres has asserted that the government cannot prevent foreigners from making social calls on Jerusalem residents. Faisal Hussein, he said, is not a member of the Palestinian Authority's cabinet, and as a plain resident he cannot be told not to accept visitors.

But neither the foreign dignitaries nor Hussein himself make a secret of the official character of the visits and the nature of the talks. Hussein may not have the title of the PA's foreign minister, but he serves as one. And it insults the intelligence of the public to imply that prominent statesmen make the trek to Orient House to discuss the weather.

Just as insulting is the notion that Shahal would station Israeli police outside Orient House's gates to prevent, say, Germany's foreign minister or Turkey's president from entering. Neither the government nor the opposition would want such an international incident to occur, nor does anyone believe it will. In fact, when asked if the ministry intends to take action to prevent foreign ministers from visiting Orient

House, the ministry's spokeswoman said "I don't believe so." That Shahal could therefore make the suggestion only indicates that the effects of election fever are more deleterious than hitherto realized.

Nor does it add to Israel's standing to suggest that foreign visits stop for the duration of the election campaign. In effect, it is a request to foreign governments to help Labor in the elections by sparing it political embarrassment. No one doubts that if Labor wins, Orient House will continue functioning at least in its present role, despite the violation of the Oslo-Cairo accords this role constitutes. To remove its activities from public scrutiny for three months is nothing less than a concealment of the truth.

The government also maintains that the Likud government, too, allowed Orient House to function as a Palestinian headquarters before June 1992. As one minister put it, "What was good enough for Shamir is good enough for us." But there was no Oslo agreement in force during the Likud rule, nor a Palestinian Authority ruling in Gaza, Jericho and all the Arab cities of Judea and Samaria. The role of Orient House today is to extend the Palestinian Authority's rule to Jerusalem, a role it could not play when no such rule existed.

The government can, of course, deal a lethal blow to the Likud charges. All it has to do is close Orient House. As Mayor Ehud Olmert has said, such a move will not affect the talks with the Palestinian Authority. It will only show that the government is serious in denying intentions to divide Jerusalem.

Defection reversal

WHEN six months ago Saddam Hussein's son-in-law Hussein Kamal Hassan appeared in Amman as the most illustrious defector from the Baghdad tyranny, he said he expected to lead the campaign to depose Saddam.

But the opposition leaders in exile rejected his overtures. He had too much blood on his hands, they said. Too closely associated with the regime in people's mind, they charged, he is a savage butcher now changing sides not out of conviction but because he fears Saddam's irrational wrath.

Yesterday's events proved them right. Having defected with great fanfare, provided UN inspectors with an information bonanza about Iraq's non-conventional weapons industry, and encouraged King Hussein to head an anti-Saddam Hussein campaign, Hassan and his brother (married to Saddam's other daughter) returned to Iraq with equal fanfare, in a convoy of luxury limousines provided by the king.

Some observers now believe that the defection was no more than a charade, a staged event with a still-unclear purpose. They think it may have been intended to cause the removal of UN sanctions on Iraq by divulging secret arms information through a "defector" rather than by Saddam himself.

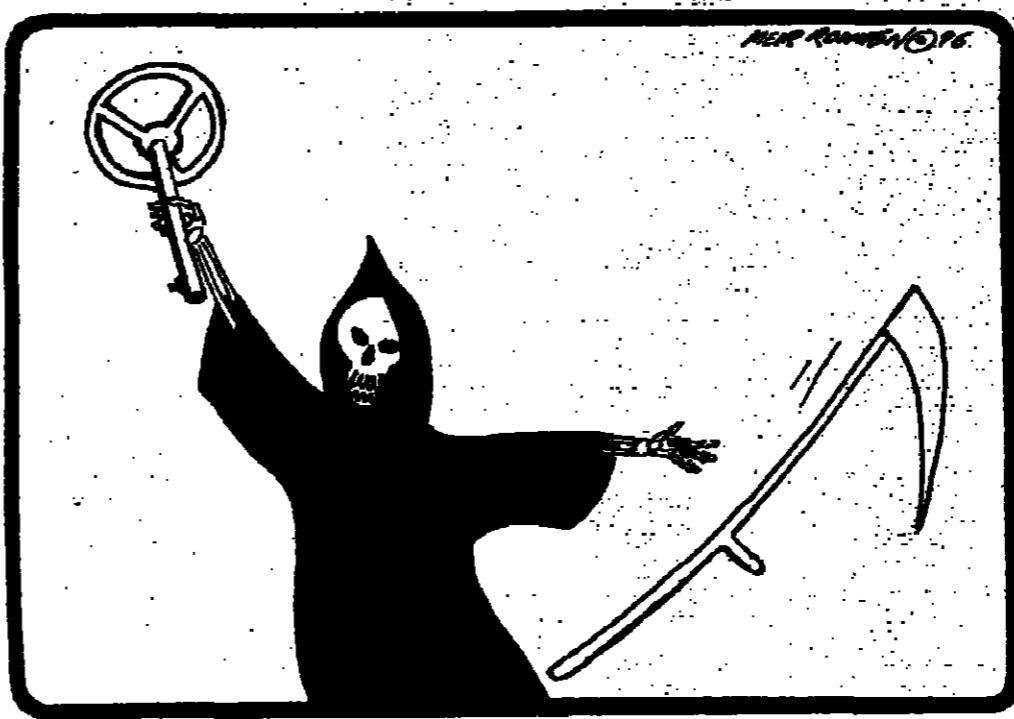
But if there is one thing certain about the affair, it is that alliances, allegiances and affli-

ations in the Middle East are as stable as shifting sand dunes. Only five years ago King Hussein, now not only Israel's most devoted and sincere friend in the region but head of the anti-Saddam effort, was Saddam's most dedicated supporter. In fact, only the king's collaboration enabled Saddam to break the UN blockade and defy the world community. Had Saddam been unable to move supplies through the port of Akaba, Iraq would have found it difficult if not impossible to wage war.

And the defectors, who only weeks ago spoke of Iraq as a hopeless, ruthless tyranny, a crucible of nefarious plots against the world whose regime had to be overthrown for the sake of its people, will now undoubtedly return to Saddam's bosom. Iraq's official media, which until now have damned the defectors as mercenary traitors worthy of nothing less than the death penalty will now undoubtedly cheer their return as a great coup for the Baghdad regime and evidence of the West's decadence and treachery.

Before leaving Amman Hassan said, "The conspiracy against Iraq necessitates that I don't remain outside my country. I should be inside my country to defend it."

Judging by the speed with which words change their meaning in the Middle East, one can only hope that such talk does not mean that another Iraqi act of aggression is in the offing.



Blind eye to Saddam

MOSHE ZAK

FOLLOWING publication of a report by Lord Justice Scott this week, Britain has been shaken by another political scandal. The minister at the center of it is someone the Israeli public knows: William Waldegrave.

The accusation against Waldegrave is that when he was a junior minister in the Foreign Office in 1989, he deliberately deceived members of parliament over government guidelines on exporting war material to Iraq after the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Waldegrave enabled the export of cylinders for use in constructing the notorious long-range Iraqi "supergun," a move that was foiled when the cylinders were seized by British Customs in April 1990, a few months before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Waldegrave's deception, detailed in the Scott Report, was not known in Jerusalem when the junior minister launched a vitriolic attack on Israel two months after Iraq occupied Kuwait.

In September 1990 he called on the US to reassess its strategic understanding with Israel, saying it was useless, and that the West would not be able to receive any help from Israel in the Iraq crisis.

Waldegrave's hutzpa came to a peak when in parliament he compared Israel to a dog that doesn't bark when burglars break into the house. The minister now stands accused of actually aiding the Iraqi burglars before they broke into Kuwait.

The aim of the unbridled attack on Israel at the height of the Kuwait crisis was to persuade the Arab countries to join the anti-Saddam coalition. It recalled the proposal in the 1950s by one of Waldegrave's predecessors, Anthony Nutting, that Britain stage a single aerial attack on Israel "to convince the Arabs that Britain isn't pro-Israel."

In September 1990, at a Bush-

dancing in the streets at the prospect of an alleviation of the embargo imposed on Iraq oil. Even Saddam's son-in-law Hussein Kamal, who defected to Jordan last year, has asked Saddam to forgive him and permit his return. The exchange rate of the dinar has increased fivefold, standing at 600 to the dollar, instead of 3,000. And Iraq remains a threat to its neighbors.

With great cunning Saddam is now trying to persuade Western businessmen to restore trade - and he doesn't even draw the line at Israel. His principal aim is to break the blockade imposed on his country, and he is quite aware of Israel's great desire for links with Arab countries. He is trying to exploit this weak point via a large number of discreet but tempting offers to Israel through various business channels.

It would be a mistake to think that this confidential courting of Israel is for our benefit: It is intended to pave the way to Washington. Saddam hopes that interested US parties will eventually come to terms with doing business with him.

He knows that as late as January 1990, when he began his preparations for invading Kuwait, president Bush was still saying, "Shelving the guarantees to Iraq is not in America's best interests." Bush didn't appreciate the ironic contrast between that statement and the delays in granting guarantees to Israel.

There is considerable doubt that we would have achieved a peace treaty with Jordan without Iraq's defeat in the war. But there is no doubt at all that any diplomatic or economic appeasement of Saddam today contains the seeds of a great many long-term dangers.

Indeed, five years later, Saddam is still in power, and Iraqis are

impassioned almost to the point of interperence," Baker writes. "You can't do that," Ross said. "This will absolutely undercut what we're trying to do. We'll put the moderate Arabs in a position where Saddam is delivering for the Palestinians, and they're not. If we create linkage, he can't claim victory. And if he does that, we're going to face a Middle East that is far more dangerous than we've ever seen."

Only now has Bush admitted (in an interview with David Frost) that he was wrong in estimating that Saddam's regime would fall after the end of the war - which was why he did not pressure for a capitulation ceremony. "The end of the war was not as successful as it might have been," Bush admitted.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Britain's latest political scandal: Business wins out over morality

Ritual mocker

ELYAKIM HAETZNI

WHEN state-controlled media in nondemocratic countries cater slavishly to the regime, we feel righteous revulsion. Last month we derided the Palestinian press for acting as Arafat's mouthpiece in the Palestinian elections.

But now our own media, too, are acting as government lackeys.

Take the forming of the new Likud-Tsomet bloc. First, the press showed disingenuous concern. Won't this match alienate Meretz followers who might otherwise be tempted to vote Tsomet? Will it not, heaven forbid, repel the religious, who any way remember that video clip? (Yes, the video clip! Don't forget that video clip!)

This was followed by the kind of jeering that invariably accompanies political maneuvers on the right. A typical example was the use of Mendelssohn's Wedding March as background music for a television feature on the Likud-Tsomet signing. Surely, inferred the program, you can't take this farce seriously.

No such mockery is ever directed at the left, but not for want of material.

Shimon Peres recently went through his obsequious ritual at the court of the Vishnitzer Rebbe. Time and again Labor and Aryeh Deri have performed carefully staged mimets. Arafat's intimate adviser, that exemplary Israeli Ahmed Tibi, is a permanent smiling presence in the heart of Israel's establishment.

And there is always that comic-opera tableau of sycophantic Israelis standing in line to pay homage to Arafat, Suha and the illustrious baby.

Why is it that the media never deem such material fit for satire and caricature, let alone mockery and contempt? Because they are guided by an iron-clad rule: the left is invariably serious and honorable. The right is a circus.

An all-time record was reached in the Channel 2 interview Dan Shilon granted Binayamin Netanyahu. (This is not an error. It was a Shilon interview. Netanyahu only served as a sounding board.)

An alarming case of mobilized media disease

Shilon scolded his guest like an impatient teacher reprimanding a slow pupil. Glowering at him with withering stares, he raised his voice, wagged his finger and interrupted time and again.

Yet Netanyahu only represents half the population. He has distinguished himself as an officer in the army's most select unit, he was Israel's most successful ambassador to the UN, and has served as deputy foreign minister.

He took over a beaten, bankrupt Likud, split by warring camps and bereft of functioning institutions. And he united the party, eliminated its factions, imposed order, and paid off its heavy debts. Now he is a credible candidate for the premiership. Would Shilon badger a Laborite with such qualifications?

WITH palpable condescension, Shilon first recited primitive insults peddled by that poisoning-dropper-doggerl-grinder Haim Hefer: "Bibi is a mask, a salesman, a cobbler" he jeered, and - treating this bit of profundity as holy writ - demanded to know, "What do you say to that, Mr. Netanyahu?"

"And what would you do as prime minister?" he later roared, promptly greeting Netanyahu's reply, "As premier..." with "Why don't you show a little humility?"

Then, using a gimmick that would shame a kindergarten teacher, Shilon brandished a tot's storybook named "Teddy-bear no no" and demanded to know if Netanyahu reads bedtime stories to his children, and if he is the Teddy-bear "who can't say yes. Yes to peace. Yes to Arafat." And has any interviewer ever asked "Have you noticed how many times you've used the word 'no' in your last sentences?"

To grasp the import of this show one must recall Shilon's interview with Shimon Peres some weeks before. This same tenacious bulldog, this ferocious cross-examiner, had nothing but dulcet tones, obsequious awe and fawning reverence for the leader of the political camp of his choice. He did everything but curtsy.

The election campaign is only beginning. The mobilized media disease will inexorably spread. But in a democracy such Bolshevism must be rejected. For, ultimately, people get the media and government they deserve.

The writer is a lawyer and former MK who lives in Kiryat Arba.

A human rights hoax

DAVID FORMAN

I received a call from the Women in Green organization to participate in a demonstration to free Shmuel Cytryn, who is being held in jail under administrative detention. Cytryn, who lives in Kiryat Arba, was arrested following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

The Women in Green felt that someone like me, who has been active in opposing administrative detention as it relates to Palestinians, should stand up for a Jewish settler who is similarly held in custody.

First let us understand why administrative detention is so objectionable. It is used to arrest individuals whom the security arm of the government feels are a threat to the state. The minimal period of interment is six months, with the possibility of an automatic, and indefinite, extension.

The individual is not accused of any specific violation of the law.

The normal due processes of law do not accompany the arrest, other than the application of British Mandate law that allowed for administrative detention. (It is ironic that Israel should employ the very method of arrest that it so opposed during the Mandate era.) As a result, in such arrests, no one knows what goes on behind the cells' closed doors. Often those held under administrative detention suffer emotional, if not physical, abuse. Because of the secretive element of the arrest, it is difficult to uncover what happens to the prisoner.

Often an element of collective punishment accompanies administrative detention. Shmuel Cytryn was arrested with a host of other settlers. Guilt by association has no place in an enlightened society.

So Cytryn, along with other settlers, sits in jail, without a

formal charge made against him and without the possibility of any sort of trial. And without any judicial procedure, it is unfair to claim that he is a threat to the state. However, what is a threat to the state is the antidemocratic act of administrative detention.

SO WHY, as one who rallied against administrative detention of Palestinians, did I finally refuse to join the demonstration to free Shmuel Cytryn?

I would have joined the demonstration to free Shmuel Cytryn. But there was more on the agenda

At first I was most certainly prepared to do so, despite the fact that the request came from the Women in Green. Silent when hundreds of Palestinians were detained under administrative detention, suddenly their consciences are pricked when Jews are held in jail.

It is hypocritical of right-wing organizations to expect those of us in the liberal camp to come to their defense as proof of our evenhandedness, even as they exempt themselves from such a balance. They wave the banner of human rights only when it serves their needs. (Hypocrisy runs two ways. Those on the left did not rush to protest the arrest of Shmuel Cytryn.)

Yet even this should not have deterred me from defending any individual whose human rights

have been violated. But as I was walking to the demonstration, I passed a number of posters sporting pictures of more than a dozen Jewish settlers who were either being held under administrative detention or were defined as being political prisoners.

Shmuel Cytryn's portrait was prominently displayed on the poster. Just below his picture was another portrait, of Ami Popper - who indiscriminately opened fire on Palestinian workers at a Rishon LeZion intersection, killing seven of them.

Ami Popper was not arrested under the terms of administrative detention. He was tried in a court of law and convicted of multiple murders in that same court. He was not a victim of a "witch-hunt."

As soon as I saw Cytryn's picture next to Popper's, I realized that my participation in the demonstration to free Shmuel Cytryn would be a fraud.

To hide behind a moral cloak of opposition to administrative detention to ultimately free the likes of Ami Popper is unacceptable. To draw others into this deceptive web is unconscionable.

Shmuel Cytryn should be released from jail immediately. If he has committed a crime, he should be charged appropriately.

But don't expect human rights activists to participate in demonstrations where convicted murderers and administrative detainees are lumped together. To do this undermines the legitimacy of protesting the application of administrative detention against any individual. Ultimately, it harms the cause of opposing administrative detention in general.

The writer is spokesperson of Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEBANON FIRST

Sir, - Dr. Dore Gold ("Syria: Lone star in Mideast constellation," December 28), is to be congratulated for his analysis of the Syrian dictator's moves and objectives. He raises the crucial issue of whether "the Clinton administration will be willing to sacrifice Lebanon's independence to expedite an Israeli-Syrian accord." The author, however, is mute on whether Israel itself would be morally correct or geopolitically wise to do so.

Overtures to the Syrian dictatorship are vain and futile now if true and lasting peace is to be further advanced in the Middle East. Assad's regime is a reflection of a militaristic ruling elite issued from the Alawite minority that oppresses the majority of Syrians under the torn banner of pan-Arabist Greater Syria. Such tyranny should not be further institutionalized in Syria and expanded in Lebanon for the sake of "peace." Rather, the next important peace price should be Lebanon, not Syria.

An appropriate stance toward the Assad regime should not be an offer of compensation for its past aggressions against Israel which led to its loss of the Golan Heights in the first place. Instead, Syria should be required to remove its occupation troops from Lebanon. Israel could follow suit once Syria is no longer present to stir the anti-Israel coals on Lebanon's southern border.

Once a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel exists to Syria's west to complement the one with Jordan to Syria's south, Israel can offer Assad's Alawite dictatorship something more important than territory: protection against the Sunni dictatorship in Iraq in exchange for

peace and useful diplomatic relations. Such a redirected peace process will forestall any Israeli sellout of Lebanon to a brutal Pax Syria over the Levant. The West should not betray Free Lebanon for "peace." Decidedly, the peace-makers of the 1990s have it backwards - Lebanon should be next and Syria only last.

Herndon, Virginia.

ART STONE

'PRESSURE AND EXTORTION'

Sir, - How ironic that Shimon Peres finally decided that now is the time to renew the mandate "forged by Rabin and myself." He's absolutely right when he bemoans the "pressure and extortion" which are so much a part of our daily politics. But where was he on that fateful night when the Oslo 2 accords were passed by a mere one vote, itself the product of the very "pressure and extortion" which he now seeks to distance himself from? As for the mandate, there never was a majority of Jewish Knesset members who gave it to him. And according to the polls which he now seems to favor, neither did a majority of the Jewish people.

How different things might be today and the government at that time, the one "forged by Rabin and myself," had the courage to call for a renewed mandate then, and Knesset members had been free to vote according to their conscience, instead of being partners in the ongoing game of "pressure and extortion."

Re'anana.

JUDY LEV

ACT NOW

Sir, - Congratulations to Esther Herzog for "telling it as it is," concerning the treatment imposed on our Ethiopian Jewish community ("The day they stopped believing," February 2). I agree with Ms. Herzog's assessment of why their plight has been ignored for so long and hope her commentary will provide the impetus for a much needed change. Is it any wonder the most recent demonstration turned violent, although the Jews from Ethiopia are by nature a gentle people? How many times can they be expected to "turn the other cheek"?

It will take much caring and effort to reverse the damage. And we must give a loud and clear message to the government and the responsible agencies to act now. Our Ethiopian citizens deserve no less.

ELAINE KALLET

Jerusalem.

ANTI-ISRAEL

Sir, - Although I almost always agree with David Bar-Ilan in his comments on bias in the media, I must take exception to one statement by his recent guest columnist Andrea Levin in Eye on the Media, in which she praises Barton Gellman of the Washington Post. For the past 20 months, seemingly an eternity, Barton Gellman has sent a series of vitriolic dispatches from Israel that can only be considered as Arab propaganda.

Barton Gellman should be condemned, not praised, for his coverage of Israel. Local Jewish newspapers have not been reluctant to express outrage at his writings; the editors of The Jerusalem Post should share that view.

NELSON MARANS
Silver Spring, Maryland.

Judy Lev

Ritual locker



Students usually meet their 'little siblings' twice a week and help them 'scholastically, socially or culturally.'

A little kindness goes a long way

Back in 1974, two students at the Weizmann Institute were driving home to their apartment on a cold, rainy winter night. Suddenly they saw two bedraggled kids, waiting for a lift. The couple stopped and asked them why they were out in the rain.

A program matching university students with 'little brothers' has been a success for both sides, Leah Abramowitz writes

Rehovot region. "The students are taught to first accent each child's best qualities. It's important to build up a youngster's self-esteem. Only afterwards will the university student go on to help him in his weaker areas."

from cancer. She had missed a great deal of school and was worn out from the exhausting treatment she had undergone. Her family was incapable of helping her.

The children had a list of gripes. They felt alienated from their peers and had no one at the boarding school who was interested in their troubles. After listening to their complaints and promising they would stay in touch, Ronny and Ruthy persuaded the kids to return to school. They stayed in touch, helping the kids with homework, taking them on outings and becoming their friends.

This continuous contact over a year also has an influence on the child's family and school environment. Teachers and social workers are the greatest fans of Perah and have many examples why they are so enthusiastic.

The big day came when the child went back to school. Rahel spoke with the teacher, who then prepared the class for the child's handicaps. The girl was accepted by her classmates, and Rahel continued to give backup assistance and moral support for the rest of the year.

ALTHOUGH one-to-one contacts account for 80% of the organization's focus, Perah students have recently developed special projects. Medical students have organized health-education programs, guiding classes in subjects such as nutrition, dental hygiene, sex education and accident prevention.

EXCEPT for professional staff at the main office and the heads of the eight regional offices, all of Perah's work is carried out by students, who receive a scholarship covering 43 percent of their tuition as payment.

Alan reported his findings to the local authorities. When the mother was unwilling to break off with the "uncle," the children were taken out of the house and put into foster care. Alan continued to visit them, even though they no longer lived in the same city. This way he provided an important link and anchor for the children, and helped them overcome their traumatic experience.

For gifted children, a special science enrichment program was developed by students in scientific faculties. A number of "hands-on science centers" have been established by Perah to help children understand the laws of nature and conduct experiments.

Laboratories get into the Bigfoot legend act

Stories have always been told about things that happened along old Mill Creek Road, the trail of bumps and switchbacks that winds up from the farms of southeastern Washington to the hushed and empty ranges of the Blue Mountains.

everything. It would put one item of concrete evidence behind all the circumstantial evidence." From Northern California to the dense forests of British Columbia, the legends of Sasquatch have been handed down over hundreds of years, a Northwest version of the fearsome fable - from the Grendel of Beowulf to the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas - that is as old as the forest and the night.

gorilla, for centuries the subject of wild tales among native Africans, wasn't officially discovered by European scientists until the 1840s, they note.

and others believe. Paul Fuerst, associate professor of molecular genetics at Ohio State University, said technical problems have delayed completion of the tests. He said the tests, if they can be completed, "will either show that it was something we know, a bear or a squirrel, or they will show whether it is in fact an unknown species."

"Up north here, we grew up with this thing. People would say, 'Look out for the wild man.' Man, how can you doubt it when you still got diapers on and they got a picture of you pointing at a Bigfoot track?" said Wes Sumerlin, a Walla Walla mountain man whose alleged sighting of two ape-like creatures about 10 kilometers off Mill Creek Road last summer has led to hopes of the first scientific evidence of the legend.

As an evolutionist, I'd love to see the thing. But to my knowledge, most of the time when these things are finally traced down, they prove to be hoaxes of one type or another, or they never finalize them into any resolution," said Daris Swindler, professor emeritus of physical anthropology at the University of Washington.

The story from last fall has been discounted by some Bigfoot investigators because it involves Paul Freeman, who is believed to have faked some Bigfoot evidence in the past. But Sumerlin and Bill Laughery said they know all the stories about Freeman and he could not have faked what they saw.

Distinguish between a child's feeling and action

PARENTING RUTH MASON

My four-year-old has been poking my breasts lately. I get angry at him when he does it. It seems aggressive on his part, but maybe it's only curiosity. I should mention I'm still nursing his 14-month-old sister. How should I handle this?



Alan Flashman, MD, child and adult psychiatrist, replies: It depends whether your child is doing this aggressively or with anger. A woman's body is never the legitimate object of violence, even that of a little child.

safe with whatever fantasies he entertains; you will not allow him to realize such imaginings. You could suggest that he talk about his rage or express it with a special doll or pillow breast-substitute that he could use to express his rage.

In light of that, there are two ways to approach this question. Maybe you feel, justifiably, that your parents are not sufficiently interested in or involved with you. While your parents may not enjoy the same music as you, what's more important is that they may be neglecting to spend time with you one-on-one.

If you feel very comfortable with saying such things - and certainly not when you're feeling angry - you might add that he could have all kinds of angry wishes when he feels jealous, including a wish to destroy your breasts in order to take revenge on you or to deprive his sister.

If the older child did not nurse, the approach is the same with some modification to explain the difference. You could say: "I wasn't ready to nurse, but I was able to take care of you and love you and feed you just as well with the bottle, and I felt that I was just a fine mother that way too."

There are questions you need to consider: Is it possible that your mother is troubled by something now, or that there are marital problems, and that she indirectly expresses this by seeming to be preoccupied or by being irritable? It is fairly common for mid-teenage daughters and mothers to be irritated by each other.

Regarding your son's behavior, he needs a very clear message that your breasts are part of your body, not his. He needs your reassurance that you will not allow him to do anything to hurt you. This is your way of helping him to be

I really want to share things with my parents but I feel I can't. The other day, I brought my John Denver album into the living room and really wanted my mom to listen to it, and she just got irritated. She says she's too busy and doesn't have time. It makes me feel bad. How can I get them to share the things I love? I'm 15.

Charlotte Slopak, PhD, clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, answers: Most 15-year-olds are primarily concerned with their peers, and want to spend their free time with them. At home, they often want greater privacy.

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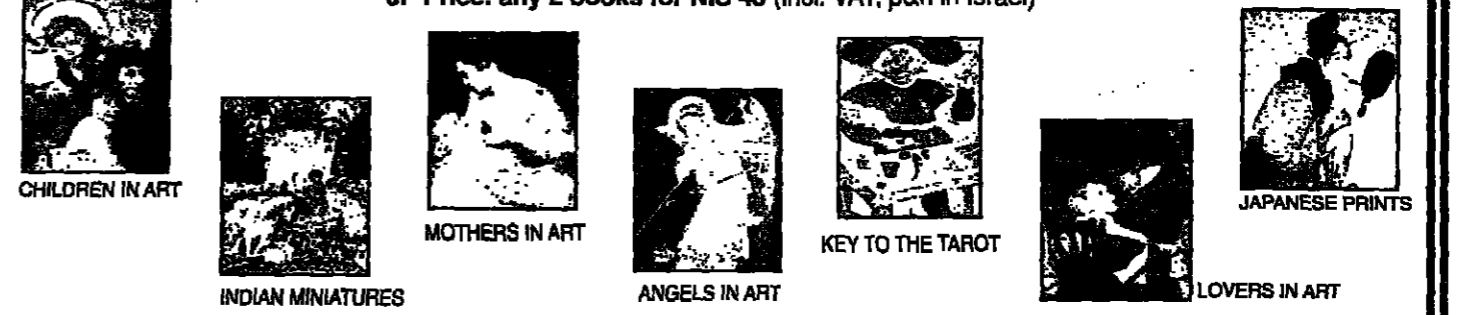
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1996

Plan submitted for offering of Discount shares Issue should raise NIS 400m.

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury yesterday submitted its proposal for a public offering of shares in Bank Discount to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval.

The offering will comprise between 14 percent and 16% of the bank's share capital in the form of both shares and options. The options will be exercisable in two years.

At the minimum price set by the Treasury, the issue is expected to raise between NIS 395 million and NIS 435m. immediately.

This represents 43%-48% of the total income expected from the offering; the remainder will be raised when the options are exercised. A prospectus for the offering is to be published by the end of the month.

At around this same time, the Treasury will begin making purchase offers to institutional investors both here and abroad, with the goal of getting advance orders for 60% of the offering.

In particular, shares will be offered to institutional investors in England, France, Switzerland and Italy.

The negotiations with foreign institutions will be handled by the US firm Lehman Brothers and the French Societe Generale.

The Israeli offering will be handled by a consortium of 30-50 underwriters, led by Clal Issuers, I.B.I., Leader Issues and Eyal Securities.

Some 10% of the total offering will be reserved for the approximately 6,000 employees of Discount and its fully-owned subsidiaries.

Each employee will be able to purchase 60%-70% of his monthly salary worth of shares, at a price 25% less than the official minimum price.

Discount will provide loans for employees wishing to take advantage of this offer.

These shares will be non-negotiable for four years, however.

Insurance companies to charge deductibles for stolen cars

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE Treasury will allow insurance companies to charge a car theft insurance deductible in order to help the firms reduce the losses they have incurred due to the growing number of car thefts, Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer said yesterday.

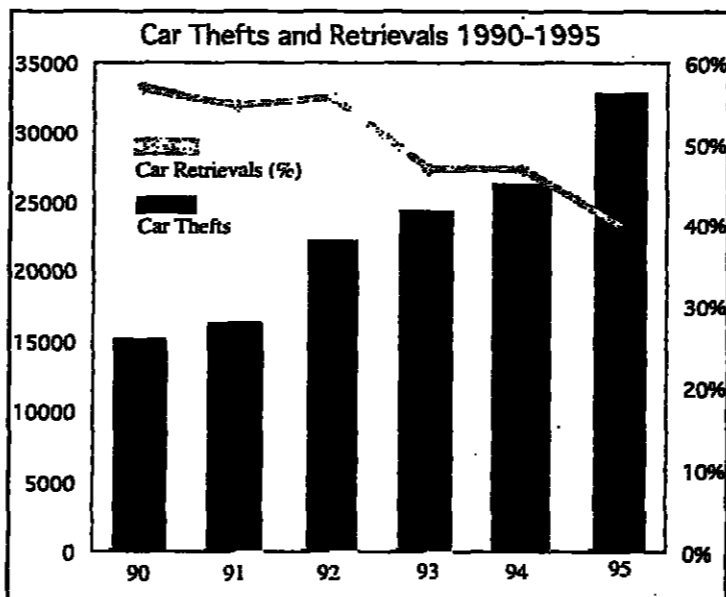
Car thefts increased 26 percent last year to 32,670 from 26,000 in 1994.

Meanwhile, retrievals of stolen cars decreased by about 7% in the same period. As a result, insurance companies lost almost \$500 million last year.

Shorer said that insurance companies, which up until now have not imposed deductibles, will be allowed to set deductibles of up to NIS 1,250 for stolen cars and those totalled in accidents.

By permitting deductibles and allowing insurance companies to set their prices according to the deductibles, insurance companies will also become more competitive, Shorer said.

He added that he hopes the new policy will also make car owners

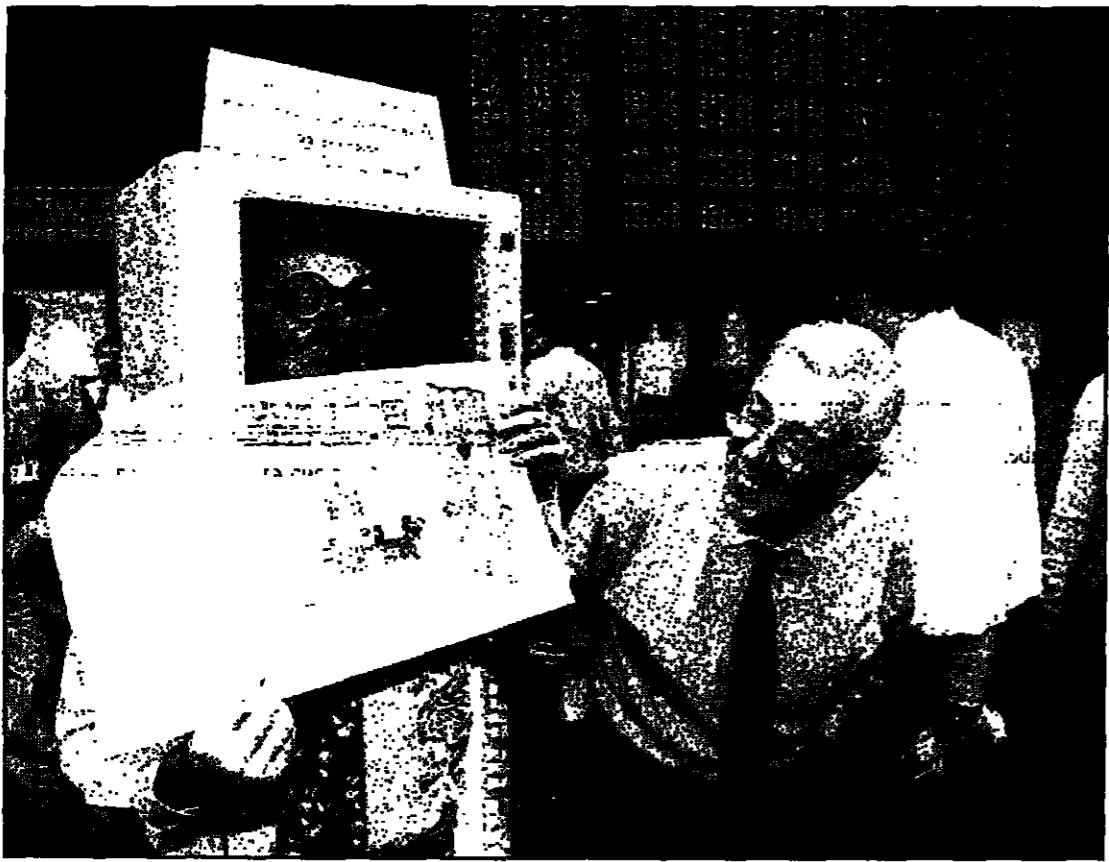


more vigilant in defending their cars against theft.

If as a result of the deductibles the frequency of car thefts drops from the current level of 2.5% to 2%, insurance companies will be able to reduce premiums by 10%.

The Treasury recently allowed insurance companies to raise their rates by 5%.

Shorer also recommended that in the case of car thefts, insurance companies should reduce the payment period from 45 to 30 days.



A Frankfurt bourse trader parades as a computer terminal as dealers relax and celebrate carnival day yesterday. Trading volume was as light as the mood on the trading floor. (Reuters)

Bezeq introduces new services

JUDY SIEGEL

AN automatic collect-call service, voice mail service, a computerized information service on new telephone numbers and a round-the-clock business office have been launched by Bezeq.

Yitzhak Kaul, director-general of the public telecommunications company, yesterday announced at a press conference the introduction of four new services available to the majority of subscribers already attached to digital exchanges.

Instead of calling the 188 operator to make collect calls, anyone can dial from a push-button phone to arrange a collect call inside the country.

Just dial 142 and follow the instructions. The caller is asked to key in the phone number (including the area code) to which he wants to reverse the charges. The automated system, which can handle 360 such calls simultaneously, calls the number to get approval: if the call is okayed, the caller records his name and the person on the other end of the line may approve the arrangement. The extra charge is NIS 1 for the first minute and 50 agorot for each additional minute.

Bezeq invested NIS 5 million in the Compaq computers necessary for the service. "Smart"

wake-up services that allow an unlimited number of wake-up calls at different hours and several days in advance from a single phone line are also being offered.

New voice mail services include the dispatching of messages in one's own voice on the date and at the time set in advance.

The computerized answering-machine service launched in some areas has now expanded to the whole country (where digital exchanges exist). Subscribers may collect messages left when one is not home or when his line is busy, and hear them by dialling free from his own line or for a fee from any other phone.

The service, which costs NIS 7.12 per month, works even if the subscriber doesn't have a phone in any particular location (for selling a car, collecting matrimonial ads, etc.). So far, 40,000 subscribers have already signed up for this service. Kaul predicted 400,000 will have it by the middle of the year.

If a phone number has been changed, one need only dial 146 and follow instructions to get the new number automatically. In addition, dial 199 any time of the day or night to obtain information on services and fees and order them.

Telrad to provide Myanmar with telephone services

RACHEL NEIMAN

TEL RAD has closed a deal to provide the telephone services provider of the Republic of Myanmar (Burma) with \$10 million in telecommunications systems.

The order includes public telephone switchboards and related equipment. Telrad has already

provided equipment to Myanmar in the past and is the primary supplier of switching equipment to the city of Rangoon.

Telrad is a 100% subsidiary of Koor.

Koor reports \$19m. in exports

to Myanmar for 1995, which included raw materials for industry, infrastructure products, fertilizers and pesticides and telecommunications equipment.

The agreement was made during a visit by Koor CEO Benny Gaon and Telrad general manager Bezael Levin with Telecommunications Minister Soe Thu.

In another development, Neshor Cement Enterprises is considering establishing a cement factory in Myanmar in partnership with the local government.

S. Africa won't use forex reserves to fight market

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa will not fight the foreign exchange market to defend the ailing rand or target its exchange rate, Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg said yesterday.

The fall in the rand had not changed the government's thinking on its approach or timing to the easing of foreign exchange controls "one iota", he told an investment conference.

"We will not use the country's foreign exchange reserves to fight the market; at best we will soothe the exchange rate," he said. "The South African Reserve Bank is not targeting the exchange rate to control inflation."

The rand fell heavily at the end of last week on

unfounded rumors about President Nelson Mandela's health and talk of an imminent easing in exchange controls.

Liebenberg said any relaxation in exchange controls would have to be "prudent and responsible," but he said the government had not been blown off course by the market's plunge.

He gave no indication on the timing or nature of the next step in dismantling exchange controls.

Liebenberg said the rand decline underlined the need to maintain fiscal discipline and get the economic fundamentals right in order to reassure overseas investors. Both issues were a high priority for the government, he said.

Bank Mizrahi NY reports '95 net earnings of \$722,000

Bank Yerushalayim announces increase in net profit

BANK Mizrahi New York yesterday announced net profits—last year of \$722,000, compared with net losses of \$4.7m. in 1994. Equity dropped to \$303m. from

RACHEL NEIMAN

\$330m. in 1994.

Bank Mizrahi New York granted \$142m. in credit last year, compared with \$129m. in 1994.

The bank said that in previous years that it had been damaged by the US recession and plummeting real estate prices in the US market.

Bank Mizrahi pointed out that the current recovery of its New York division was done without funding from the Israeli division.

The recovery plan included cutbacks in personnel and the closure of the bank's Borough Park branch. The bank now operates solely out of its Rockefeller Center headquarters.

Bank Yerushalayim reported a rise in annual net profits to NIS 7.2m. from NIS 6.54m. in 1994.

Equity capital went up to NIS 164.3m. from NIS 123.3m., the result of a NIS 38.5m. rights issue intended to allow the bank to increase activity in the future.

Return on net equity capital decreased to 5.1% from 8% on 1994.

The decline in the rate of return was due to the increase in equity. The bank, a mortgage and development bank, granted NIS 4.9 billion in credit last year, as compared with NIS 4.1b. in the previous year.

In January, the bank instituted a new business policy intended to widen and diversify its activities, customer base and funding sources.

Bank Yerushalayim said it intends to enter the private banking sector serving foreign residents as well as capital market activity.

Purim safety effort begins

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Industry and Trade Ministry kicked off the pre-Purim season with a bang, raiding a Mama Yokero toy shop in Rehovot and seizing packages of 25 firecrackers. Each contained over 100 grams of explosive material.

The ministry, together with the Education Ministry, the Tax Authority, the police and the Standards Institute of Israel yesterday announced a joint effort to ensure Purim safety.

An array of dangerous toys — primarily firecrackers, toy weapons and spray foam — was displayed.

"We are entering a two-week period of Purim festivities, and much is dependant on the cooperation between government agencies and the communications media in getting across this message," Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Masha Lubelsky said.

The Education Ministry has issued a lesson plan on Purim safety to be implemented on the primary school level. Noah Rabinowitz, in charge of Environmental Safety for the Education Ministry, said his office's efforts had dramatically brought down the number of reported accidents to five in 1995, as compared with over 100 in 1990.

The Trade and Industry Ministry has issued a list of types of toys containing explosive or dangerous materials which are forbidden for import. The list includes certain types of fireworks, highly realistic toy weapons, flammable sprays and others.

Tax Authority representative Haim Ohev-Ami said most toys of this kind came from the Far East.

The Tax Authority, which this year permitted over one million shipments into Israel, could not inspect every container of imports, he said. However, it did carry out random inspections, assisted by inside information, tips and with the seasonal nature of such products in mind.

Lubelsky said the punishment, which is currently only a fine, is not severe enough.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hollinger dividend raised, Kissinger joins board: Hollinger International Inc., the publishing company which owns 397 non-dailies and 137 dailies including the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Jerusalem Post*, announced Tuesday a quarterly dividend of \$0.10 per share, four times its level since the third quarter of 1994. The company also announced the election of 10 new directors, including Dr. Henry Kissinger, Ambassador Robert Strauss, and Lord Weidenfeld.

Elron Electronics Industries and Arel Computers and Software intend to establish a joint company which would merge the technologies of Arel's ARCOM product with Elron's I-FAX products.

Arel will invest \$2 million in return for 80 percent of the new company, of which 5% will be held as options for employees. Elron will invest \$500,000 in return for 20%, with an option to purchase an additional 7.5% of outstanding capital share from Arel at \$6.125 per share. The deal is to be approved following due-diligence.

Robomatix Technologies yesterday announced the final terms of the settlement agreement of a class-action suit brought against the company by shareholders who claimed the company had withheld information in its 1994 prospectus.

The company has denied all claims and made no admission of wrongdoing but has agreed to pay expenses on the suit. It will also allocate 250,000 shares of Robomatix common stock and warrants to acquire an additional 200,000 shares after 1999.

Ernst Neuman, a Netanya plastics manufacturing firm, has won a NIS 22m. contract to provide the Israel Electric Corporation with fiberglass cooling system pipes for the new power station to be erected at the Ruttenberg site in Ashkelon.

Galileo Technologies has raised \$2.9 million in a private placement to an investor group led by venture capital fund Weiss, Pack and Greer. Other investors included the Nitzanim and Tikva funds. Galileo plans to expand both its San Jose and Israeli centers.

Clal has been named by Lehman Brothers as Israel's top performer in its Global Emerging Markets equity strategy for the first quarter of 1996.

Among Maof Index companies Clal ranked first with a return yield of 7.42 percent — followed by Discount Investments, IDB Holdings, Clal Industries, Bank Hapoalim, Delek, Tadiran SuperSol and Israel Corporation.

The 10 worst performers for the first quarter of 1996 were First International, with a negative return yield of -7.82%, Teva, Properties and Building, Elco, Africa-Israel, Clal Electronics, Machtshim and Dead Sea Works.

WORLD BRIEFS

EU, Morocco to formally sign trade deal: Morocco and the European Union will formally signed two key accords on Monday covering trade and cooperation and fishing, diplomats said yesterday. The accords were initiated in November after months of wrangling over issues such as canned sardines, cut flowers, tomatoes and access for EU fishing to Moroccan fishing grounds.

The trade and cooperation accord is part of a series of similar deals the EU is piecing together with non-EU Mediterranean nations as part of its Euro-Med policy to create a free trade zone over the next 15 years.

The EU already has similar deals with Israel and Tunisia, is actively negotiating with Jordan and Egypt, is about to open talks with the Palestinian Authority, and has received a request from Syria for negotiations to begin as soon as possible.

EU to try to settle feta cheese dispute: The European Commission will try to resolve a touchy dispute yesterday over what kind of cheese has earned the right to be called "feta". Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, who has drawn up a plan for protecting the names of 320 European food products, has proposed that the label be restricted to feta cheese made from goat's milk in Greece. But that has drawn fire from Denmark, which argues that the decision would drastically cut into its exports of feta cheese produced from cow's milk.

Kenya Airways is set to follow other successful flotations in Nairobi by offering its shares relatively cheaply to attract small investors, market analysts said yesterday.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.2.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (USD/100)	4.375	4.250	4.250
Pound sterling (GBP/100)	4.870	4.870	4.870
French franc (FF 200,000)	1.750	1.750	1.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.250
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Notes vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.2.96)			
CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Banknotes
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4726	3.5259	3.4857
German mark	3.9958	3.1148	3.4857
French franc	4.7906	2.1441	2.07
Japanese yen (100)	0.6125	0.6224	0.64
Dutch florin	1.8838	2.9461	2.84
Swiss franc	2.5844	2.6368	1.95
Swedish krona	0.4624	0.4522	2.54
Norwegian krona	0.5446	0.4526	0.43
Danish krone	0.6738	0.4822	0.47
Canadian dollar	2.2146	2.3256	0.53
Australian dollar	2.5190	2.2508	0.69
S. African rand	0.7948	0.8075	2.17
Belgian franc (10)	1.5825	1.0421	2.59
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5827	3.0491	0.57
Italian lira (1000)	1.5806	1.9618	1.00
Jordanian dinar	—	—	3.10
Spanish peseta	—	—	1.94
EU	3.8892	3.6917	4.50
Irish punt	4.8728	4.9525	4.78
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4989	2.5939	2.48

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Cronje sweeps SA to win UConn's streak snapped

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (Reuter) - Captain Hansie Cronje inspired South Africa to a comfortable five-wicket victory over New Zealand in its World Cup Group B match yesterday.

Containing New Zealand to 177 for nine off 50 overs with a fine display in the field, South Africa showed early aggression with the bat to race to victory with 12.3 overs to spare.

Cronje, who made 57 in his team's win against the United Arab Emirates in Rawalpindi last Friday, hammered 78 as South Africa raced home at 178 for five off 37.3 overs.

The win, watched by a paltry crowd of just over 2,000, enabled South Africa to displace New Zealand at the top of Group B.

New Zealand, despite its lowly score, might have made a contest of the game had they not split three possible catches from South Africa's opening pair in the first eight overs - twice off Steve Kirsten and once from Gary Kirsten.

South Africa's opening pair

used their good fortune to put on 41 in nine overs and set the foundation, but it was an aggressive innings by No. 3 Cronje that carried his side to its seventh successive one-day international victory.

The 26-year-old captain scored his 50 off 36 balls, including six fours and two sixes - the second of which brought up the half-century.

It was the fastest 50 of the World Cup so far, eclipsing Chris Cairns' 37-ball effort for New Zealand against the Netherlands in Baroda, India, on Saturday.

Cronje was eventually out in Nathan Astle's first over, caught by Stephen Fleming for 78 off 64 balls.

Astle also took the wicket of Darryl Cullinan, who again played a supporting role, for 27.

New Zealand failed to get out of the starting blocks in its innings after captain Lee Germon won the toss and elected to bat on a flat strip at the Iqbal stadium.

Astle was run out for one in the second over in another mix-up with fellow opener Craig

Spearman, as had happened in the previous match against the Dutch.

The South African fielders pulled off two more run-outs with direct hits and shackled New Zealand's batsmen with tight fielding and bowling.

Fleming top scored for New Zealand with 33 before being bowled by McMillan, and Germon made a valiant effort to end the innings with a flourish, hitting 31 not out.

Fast bowler Allan Donald took three for 34 in his 10 overs but off-spinner Pat Symcox, playing his first World Cup match, was the pick of the bowlers, conceding just 25 runs off his 10 overs.

South Africa's coach Bob Woolmer described their fielding as the best he had seen by the team since he took charge two years ago.

"It's discipline we have been working on for a while now," added Cronje, at the same time praising his bowlers.

"I thought it was a wicket that would yield around 240 runs," said the captain.

A disappointed Germon described his team's performance as amateurish, particularly their work in the field.

New Zealand
 C.Spearman o P.McMillan b Matthews 14
 N.Astle run out 1
 S.Fleming b McMillan 33
 R.Trose o McMillan b Pollock 13
 C.Cairns b Donald 9
 J.Pattinson run out 27
 C.Harris run out 8
 S.Thomson o Cronje b Donald 28
 L.Germon not out 31
 S.Jansen o Cullinan b Donald 1
 D.McIntosh not out 5
 Extras (8-4-0-2) 6
 Total (plus wickets 50 overs) 177
 Fall of wickets: 1-7 2-17 3-38 4-54 5-65 6-103 7-118 8-158 9-165
 Bowling: Pollock 10-1-45-1, Matthews 10-3-30-1, Donald 10-0-34-3, Cronje 3-0-13-0, Symcox 10-1-25-4, McMillan 7-1-28-1.

South Africa
 S.Kirsten lbw b Harris 26
 S.Paarlman b Morrison 18
 H.Cronje c Fleming b Astle 78
 D.Cullinan c Thomson b Astle 27
 J.Kallis not out 11
 J.Rhodes c and b Larsen 9
 S.Edwards c and b Larsen 9
 B.McMillan not out 1
 Total (five wickets 37.3 overs) 178
 Fall of wickets: 1-41 2-67 3-146 4-159 5-170
 Did not bat: S.Pollock, P.Symcox, C.Matthews, B.Donald
 Bowling: Morrison 6-0-44-1, Cairns 6-0-24-0, Larsen 8-1-41-1, Harris 4-0-25-1, Thomson 8-3-0-34-0, Astle 3-1-10-2.

LANDOVER, (AP) - There was no subtle end to Connecticut's 23-game winning streak. Georgetown yanked it away.

Rattled by a suffocating defense that produced 14 steals - eight by Allen Iverson - and denied Ray Allen the ball, the third-ranked Huskies saw their chance of a perfect Big East season end Monday night in a 77-65 defeat to the 11th-ranked Hoyas.

Georgetown (22-5, 11-4 Big East) ended a five-game losing streak against the Huskies and remained unbeaten in 14 games this season at USIAir Arena.

Connecticut (24-2, 14-1) hadn't lost since Iowa beat it in the semifinals of the season-opening Great Alaska Shootout. Its 14-0 Big East start matched the conference record set by St. John's in 1984-85. Georgetown also stopped that streak.

"I think it will send a message to a lot of other teams," Iverson said. "Not to brag, but in our last game against Memphis, we played real good as well, so I think people know now that we're going to be a contender."

In addition to the steals, Iverson had 26 points on 11-for-21 shooting and six assists. Of equal importance was a supporting cast which gave him plenty of help, something that's been absent so often in Georgetown's inconsistent play on the road.

Jerome Williams had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Boubacar Aw and Jerry Nichols each scored 11. In addition, Aw, Iverson, Nichols and Victor Page each had a turn covering Allen, who finished 5-for-18 with 13 points.

"For the first time a team attacked us and we didn't respond," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "We

expected the challenge from a very good team, though we could meet it and obviously didn't."

With Allen denied the ball, Doron Sheffer tried valiantly to take up the void. He led the Huskies with 23 points on 6-of-8 shooting from 3-point range, but he also had nine of Connecticut's 20 turnovers.

"Maybe I'm going to say too many good things about Doron, but, boy, was he good," Calhoun said. "Iverson had some help tonight. Doron didn't. He just didn't get any help."

Georgetown, bolstered by a sellout crowd of 19,035 that provided by far the Hoyas' most vocal support this season, led 43-31 at halftime. The Huskies didn't trail during the second half of any game during their winning streak.

In other games involving ranked teams Monday night, it was No. 5 Kansas 81, Nebraska 71; No. 6 Cincinnati 69, Saint Louis 64; and No. 25 Wisconsin-Green Bay 81, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 66.

GEORGETOWN 77, CONNECTICUT 65

CONNECTICUT (24-2)
 Iverson 11-21 3-8 26, Knight 3-8 7-9 13, Sheffer 6-14 1-23 13, Allen 5-18 0-13, Jones 0-3 1-2 1, Iverson 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 1-4 0-2, Hayward 0-0 0-0 0, Klaber 0-0 0-0 0, Carson 1-1 1-3. Totals 23-57 10-14 65.

GEORGETOWN (22-5)
 Aw 5-5 1-2 11, Williams 6-10 0-0 12, Harrington 4-8 0-0 8, Iverson 11-21 3-8 26, Page 2-5 2-7, Toussaint 0-0 0-0 0, O-O 0, Nichols 4-7 0-0 11, White 1-2 0-2 2, Totals 33-59 6-7 77.

HOUSTON 102, SACRAMENTO 111 (OT)
 Houston 118, Sacramento 111 (OT) Seattle 102, Atlanta 94 Golden State 112, Dallas 100 Detroit 113, Minnesota 83 Cleveland 73, Miami 70 Phoenix 98, Vancouver 94 (OT)

'Partial satisfaction' with UEFA move

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - The European Commission said yesterday it was "partly satisfied" with a decision by European soccer's ruling body UEFA to scrap restrictions on foreign players in its club competitions.

But it said it wants soccer clubs and associations to fall into line immediately with UEFA's commitment and not wait until next season.

The Commission welcomed the move, which was announced on Monday, but was concerned about press reports suggesting some player restrictions would remain or new ones would be introduced. European Union sources said.

"Commissioners Padraig Flynn and Karel Van Miert have welcomed with 'partial satisfaction' the UEFA announcement," the Commission said in a statement.

UEFA announced in London it was scrapping its "3+2" restrictions, which allow clubs to field only three foreign players plus two "assimilated players."

But it said it expected clubs in the three European club competitions to adhere volun-

tarily to the "3+2" system for the rest of this season's campaigns.

Employment Commissioner Flynn and Competition Commissioner Van Miert, however, want the changes to become effective immediately, the Commission said.

It said no transition periods were allowed under a European Court of Justice ruling in the Bosman case in December that UEFA transfer fee rules and restrictions on the number of non-national players violated EU law.

The Commission has threatened to fine UEFA if it does not comply with the ruling by early March.

Spokesman Willy Helin said the Commission had not received an official notification yet from UEFA and was reacting only to press reports.

The English Premier League, which has already swept away restrictions in the domestic setting, said: "We welcome UEFA's announcement on the three plus two rule. It means clubs now have the certainty for next season that we have been seeking. They can start planning now."

UEFA is planning to meet the European Players' Union FIFPRO on Friday to discuss alternative concepts.

FIFPRO chief Gordon Taylor will be joined by player representatives from England, the Netherlands, France, Spain and Italy for the meeting, which will seek to establish common ground with UEFA.

English Premier League chief executive Rick Parry said UEFA did not have the power to impose a single system Europe-wide.

"It must be made absolutely clear that it is those responsible for running the professional game in the respective countries who have to deal with domestic rules and regulations," he said.

"It is our view that if future change is needed, then that can only be done through a direct dialogue with the professional game."

"In particular, we believe that it is important for the good of the game that the right steps are taken to protect the domestic transfer system."

"We will continue with our own dialogue with the European Commission as part of the process."

Nets stretch streak to four

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) - Shawn Bradley scored a season-high 27 points as the New Jersey Nets stretched their winning streak to a season-best four games by beating the Washington Bullets 99-81 Monday.

Bradley also had nine rebounds and four blocks in his best game since coming to the Nets from Philadelphia in November. He easily eclipsed his previous season high of 23 points and missed matching his career best by one point.

The Bullets, playing their second game in less than 24 hours, lost for the seventh time in eight games. Calbert Cheaney scored 27 for Washington, which committed 24 turnovers.

Cavaliers 73, Heat 70

Terrill Brandon scored 27 points, including two clinching free throws with 3.4 seconds left, and host

Cleveland got its eighth straight victory.

With the Heat trailing 71-70, Bimbo Coles missed two foul shots that would have given them the lead with 10.2 seconds to play. The rebound of his second shot was knocked out of bounds off teammate Billy Owens.

That forced Miami to foul, and Cleveland was able to get the clock down to 3.4 seconds before Brandon went to the line.

Miami's Rex Chapman missed badly on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Pistons 113, Timberwolves 83

Terry Mills scored 13 of his 17 points during the second quarter, and host Detroit went to its largest victory margin since a 121-81 victory at Orlando in 1991.

Minnesota closed to 70-56 midway through the third quarter, but Otis Thorpe scored seven points during a 19-4 run that turned the game into a rout.

Warriors 112, Mavericks 100

Laurel Sprewell scored 22 points as host Dallas went down to its seventh

loss in eight games.

BJ Armstrong and Joe Smith scored 19 points each, and Rony Seikaly had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who won for the third time in four games.

Rockets 118, Kings 111 (OT)

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 40 points, including the first six points in an overtime win at home.

The Kings, trying to stop a six-game losing streak, forced the overtime when Tyrone Corbin grabbed a wildly careening ball and made a 3-pointer at the buzzer of regulation, tying the score at 103.

Houston gave the ball inside to Olajuwon in the overtime. After he gave Houston a 109-107 lead, Sam Cassell made eight straight free throws to seal the victory.

MONDAY'S RESULTS:
 Houston 118, Sacramento 111 (OT) Seattle 102, Atlanta 94 Golden State 112, Dallas 100 Detroit 113, Minnesota 83 Cleveland 73, Miami 70 Phoenix 98, Vancouver 94 (OT)

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Israel hosts Lithuania in soccer friendly

THE NATIONAL soccer squad is back in action this evening, playing against Lithuania in a friendly match at Kiryat Eliezer, as both sides continue preparations for the World Cup qualifiers that begin later this year.

Israel fell to a disappointing 2-1 defeat against Greece last month, and coach Shlomo Scharf will be demanding a much more professional performance from his men today. The Lithuanians are unlikely to prove to be a pushover for the hosts. The side finished third in European Championship qualifying Group 4, being eclipsed by the impressive Croatians and the Italians. Out of 10 qualifying matches, the Lithuanians chalked up five wins, and managed a draw against Croatia to finish third in its group with 16 points. The Israelis meanwhile came in fifth in qualifying

Group 4, amassing 13 points.

Efforts to get Ronen Harazi fit for tonight's game will continue this morning. If the Betar Jerusalem striker does not make the opening line-up, Haim Revivo, the National League's top scorer, is likely to be moved upfield to spearhead the attack.

Bonny Ginsburg is Scharf's preferred starter between the posts, with Rafi Cohen switching at the break. Tal Banin, Alon Hazan and Eyal Berkowitz are likely to open in midfield with either Maccabi Tel Aviv's Itzik Zohar or Hapoel Haifa's Reuven Azar joining them.

With five substitutes allowed, both coaches are likely to make liberal use of the bench.

The match, which has generated extra interest due to the presence of Manchester United talent scout Les Kershaw, kicks off at 5:00 pm.



Charlie O. Finley at 77

CHICAGO (Reuter) - Charles O. Finley, one of the most colorful team owners in recent baseball history, died Monday of heart disease at 77.

Finley's Oakland A's won three consecutive World Series from 1972-74 and five straight divisional titles with a mix of good playing and lively showmanship.

He assembled stars such as Reggie Jackson, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Vida Blue and Rollie Fingers and gave the team a distinctive look by financially encouraging players to grow hand-diebar moustaches and wear gaudy uniforms.

Some of his ideas never took off, however, such as a suggestion to introduce orange baseballs to

make them easier for fans to see.

Others however, like the designated hitter and night World Series, have become integral parts of the sport.

Finley's ego was also legendary - he supposedly told slugger Reggie Jackson that he was God - and he once sued baseball's commissioner for invalidating a sale of three of his stars.

Finley's reign came to an end when players' salaries started to escalate in the mid 1970s. He resisted the higher pay and started trading and let his best players go.

"I just couldn't compete with the idiotic, astronomical and unjustified salaries of today's players," Finley said in 1980 when he sold the team.

SCOREBOARD
BRITISH SOCCER: The FA Cup 5th-round tie between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham, abandoned after 15 minutes (0-0) yesterday because of snow, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 28.

NFL: Monday's Results - Philadelphia 4, New Jersey 1; Boston 3, Los Angeles 3; Tampa Bay 4, Dallas 2; Detroit 4, Vancouver 3; Colorado 7, Edmonton 5.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

Japico

Barak to make fence-mending Russian visit

FOREIGN Minister Ehud Barak is to make a short visit to Russia next month and meet with his new counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, for a discussion of various topics in dispute between the two countries. Israel considers that the relationship has deteriorated recently and Barak will seek to keep this from continuing.

Primakov's appointment in January signaled a new trend in Russian foreign policy toward the Middle East, mainly because of his reputation as a devoted Arabist and track record as one who fought to establish a Russian foothold in the region.

Primakov is also seen as an activist who believes that Russia must make an effort to reassert its role as a superpower. One way he is expected to do so is by stressing Russia's importance to the peace process. In this regard, he recently met with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and peace coordinator Dennis Ross. The meeting lasted seven and a half hours.

One of the things Primakov is reported as having told Christopher is that Russia will no longer be satisfied with its quiet, formal role in the Middle East peace process.

Among the issues Barak is to take up with Primakov is Russia's refusal to abandon its construction of nuclear reactors in Iran. An issue Primakov is expected to raise is what Russia considers to be the contemptible treatment of its businessmen in Israel. There are also a number of legal issues to be resolved concerning Russian rights to former Soviet property in Israel.

In another diplomatic matter, visiting Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner told Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday his country is interested in attracting wide-scale Israeli investments.

Boettner was also hosted yesterday by Barak, who surveyed developments in the peace process. The two signed a cultural cooperation agreement at the end of their meeting.

Boettner is the first Paraguayan foreign minister and most senior of its officials to visit here. Paraguay moved its embassy to Mevasseret Zion, near Jerusalem, last year. (Tim)



Some of the over 1,600 members of Japan's Makuya sect visiting the country parade down Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda Mall yesterday. (Briaus Header)

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Flies in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	4-8	20	cloudy
Berlin	3-7	21	snow
Buenos Aires	24	28	sun
Calcutta	24	30	clear
Chicago	02	08	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	02	03	cloudy
Frankfurt	01	03	cloudy
Geneva	00	01	rain
Hamburg	00	03	rain
Hong Kong	08	15	clear
Jakarta	23	29	partly cloudy
London	02	08	rain
Los Angeles	16	21	partly cloudy
Madrid	10	18	partly cloudy
Moscow	00	07	rain
New York	04	08	rain
Osaka	10	17	rain
Rome	08	13	rain
Seoul	00	02	rain
Sydney	10	18	partly cloudy
Tokyo	00	08	rain
Toronto	00	05	rain
Vancouver	00	05	rain
Zurich	00	05	rain

Bill would protect farmers who built illegally

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Economics Committee yesterday approved a bill granting farmers who built illegally temporary immunity from prosecution, over the combined objections of all the ministries involved in the affair.

The bill, which will now go to the plenum for its first reading, suspends all legal proceedings against people who illegally erected industrial or commercial buildings on agricultural lands, for a period of 18 months. The bill would not even permit the state to carry out a sentence against someone who has already been convicted in court.

The Agriculture, Justice, Interior and Environment ministries all opposed the bill, charging it gives an unjustified general amnesty to violators.

"I want to warn the Knesset against lending its hand to lawlessness and legislation that suspends legal proceedings against criminals, which has no precedent in any parliament in the world," said Avraham Poraz (Meretz), who agreed with the government's position. "It is wrong to legitimize crimes that have been committed..."

This Economic Committee's decision on illegal building on the moshavim constitutes contempt for the rule of law in Israel.

Committee chairman Gideon Pat (Likud) rejected this charge, however, saying an 18-month ban on legal proceedings is not the same as a general amnesty. This grace period, he said, is merely meant to give farmers time to request an exemption from the planning and building laws, in accordance with the Kadmon Report.

Furthermore, he said, these crimes did not result in any significant environmental damage.

"Had the government dealt with the issue in time, part of the problem wouldn't exist now," he added.

Histadrut must decide whether to dismiss indicted state's witness

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut leadership will decide in the next few days whether to dismiss Uzi Fassa, indicted this week for fraud in connection with the financial irregularities in the labor federation.

Fassa, whose testimony as state's witness played a key role in the criminal investigation against former Histadrut higher-ups, served as director of Mifalei Turbut, the Histadrut company in charge of printing and event productions for the Histadrut and the Labor Party.

Fassa's testimony led to the investigation against Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, former Histadrut secretary-general, former secretary-general Haim Haberfeld, and former Histadrut treasurer Artur Yisraelovitz, among others, for allegedly using Histadrut funds in their election campaigns.

So far, only MK Avi Yehezkel and Fassa have been indicted, and at this stage it does not appear that charges will be filed against Haberfeld or the other former senior officials.

According to the indictment, Fassa helped transfer funds from the Histadrut coffers, via the company he headed, to Haberfeld's campaign staff.

In the January 1994 Labor Party primaries for the Histadrut elections, Fassa was asked to carry out various projects for incumbent secretary-general Haberfeld, who was Labor's candidate.

At the end of the primaries, Fassa learned that the projects for Haberfeld's campaign cost NIS 765,000. Since Fassa couldn't charge Haberfeld's staff for the work without presenting signed work orders, he decided to collect the fee by fraud from various Histadrut departments, the charge sheet says.

Fassa allegedly wrote several fraudulent invoices to the Histadrut's trade union section, administration and personnel sections.

Winning cards & numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 4, 8, 18, 35, 38, and 47 and the additional number was 13.

Another Rachel's tomb stirs controversy

CIAT COLLINS

WHILE the dispute over Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem has been covered considerably in the press, a quiet argument has been going on between Jews and Moslems over another Rachel's tomb, in Tiberias.

According to Shas leader Aryeh Deri, the tomb is that of Rabbi Akiva's wife Rachel, and in recent years a yeshiva has been established there which has become the site of Jewish pilgrimages.

At a meeting of the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday, Deri complained that Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet had told the Knesset plenum that it is a Moslem site taken over by Jews.

Amir Drori, the head of the Antiquities Authority, said the structure above the grave site is from the 13th century but is built from a synagogue from an earlier period. Rabbi Rafael Cohen, responsible for renovations at the site, said he is convinced it is the tomb of Rabbi Akiva's wife.

Because of the 1d il-Fir holiday, there were no Moslems present at the discussion. The assistant legal adviser for the Religious Affairs Ministry, Ayal Nun, said Shetreet had appointed a committee to examine the issue.

He said scores of Moslems had asked the committee to stop the activities at the site. Several religious and opposition MKs said the Moslem claims to the site had only started after the renovations had been carried out. "The place was neglected and didn't interest a single Moslem until Rabbi Cohen renovated it," said MK Rafael Finhas (Shas), Committee chairman. Yehoshua Matza (Likud) suggested that the ministry's recommendations be presented to the committee only after the elections in order to separate possible electoral influences from the report. He also called for the committee to include more archeologists specializing in the area of Land of Israel studies.

Islamic Asian nations want help against terror

BILL HUTMAN

ISRAEL'S representatives at an international anti-terror conference in the Philippines have found that several Islamic Asian nations which until now have had no official relations with Israel are willing to cooperate in the war on terror.

Internal Security Ministry Director-General Ya'acov Lapidot, heading the Israeli delegation, said Pakistan in particular had shown willingness to establish ties with Israel on security-related matters.

Indonesia and Malaysia expressed similar interest, Lapidot said in an interview on Israel Radio yesterday. Miguel Pressler, the prime minister's adviser on terror, is also part of the Israeli delegation at the five-day conference, which opened Monday in the Philippine city of Baguio.

"These are countries I don't believe we have met before on subjects related to fighting terror," Lapidot said, in reference to meetings the Israelis are holding with representatives from Indonesia, Pakistan, and Malaysia. "Pakistan suffers from terror, particularly from Islamic terror," Lapidot said.

"They are willing to cooperate in all areas - intelligence, weaponry, developing technology. ... The Pakistani representatives are expressing incredible openness."

Nineteen countries are attending the annual conference, including the US, Japan, Great Britain, Russia, Egypt and Italy. Next year's meeting is likely to be held in Pakistan, according to Lapidot.

To the Members of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations

"Who Is a Jew?" Is Back

Today, the Knesset will vote on a bill, signed by 16 Orthodox MKs from the religious parties, that would prevent recognition of Conservative and Reform conversions in Israel, and raise again the issue of "Who is a Jew?". This bill effectively invalidates the Supreme Court efforts to grant equal status to all streams of Judaism in conversions, representation on religious councils, burials and life-cycle events.

Former Chief Justice Meir Shamgar of the Supreme Court wrote in his landmark ruling (November 1995): "How can a position be justified according to which a non-Orthodox conversion performed abroad is valid in Israel for the purpose of registration (as a Jew), but a conversion performed by the same Jewish movement in Israel is not valid for the same purpose?... Freedom of religion and conscience are among the fundamental tenets of our system... The more widely the area of religious conversion is regulated by the legislature, the more the freedom of religion and conscience of the country's inhabitants will be violated."

Passage of this bill is an affront to freedom of religion and freedom of conscience in Israel. It undermines the Supreme Court's decision and dashes the hopes of the numerous converts who anxiously await recognition as Jews, as well as the new olim who wish to convert to Judaism!

Raise your voice and join our struggle to prevent this legislation! As you meet with policymakers in Israel, raise your concerns with them now! Help us establish an open, pluralistic society in Israel!

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Escaped prisoner turns himself in
Micha Bernstein, 20, who escaped from Shata Prison Saturday night, turned himself in yesterday morning to Messubim police. He was taken back to prison.

Late Monday night, Bernstein's parents contacted police and told them he wanted to give himself up. It is still unclear how he escaped. He told police he had been overcome by a strong need to see his family, and especially his girlfriend. A board of inquiry was appointed to investigate the escape.

Territories' resident held for murder
A 17-year-old Kafr Yamon resident was remanded for 10 days by the Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday on suspicion of murdering Tirut Carmel resident Amram Revivo last April.

Revivo was found stabbed to death in the back of the Haifa Municipality's education department. The suspect was originally arrested for being in Israel illegally. Police said the suspect confessed to the murder and reenacted it for the police.

TA man gets six years for stabbing
Ouri Gabriellov, 36, of Tel Aviv was sentenced to six years in jail and three years' suspended for stabbing his ex-wife's mother after an argument last August regarding child visitation rights.

The prosecution charged that as a result of the stabbing, the woman had to undergo an operation to remove part of her liver. Gabriellov confessed to the crime.

Poigat restarts work at Ouman factory
Poigat conglomerate officials partially renewed production yesterday at Ofakim's Ouman factory, which it shut two months ago, while contacts continued with entrepreneurs interested in buying the plant.

Sixty of the workers who had been dismissed were asked to temporarily resume production at the factory. They did so on Monday to fill orders received and to use up the raw materials at the plant. However, the workers were told the work was for a limited time only, and many turned down the offer.

Man gets life in jail for murdering his sister
Hussam Kna'an, 24, convicted of murdering his sister, Abias, 38, was sentenced yesterday by the Haifa District Court to life imprisonment. Kna'an, from a Galilee village, shot his sister while she was visiting from the US in July 1994, because on a radio appearance in the US she called herself Ruth Canaan, which he regarded as violating his family's honor.

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